

*Elizabeth Coley Ackerman's Story*

*In Her Own Words*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I had Mama's words typed just as she wrote them in her own words except for some minor adjustments to improve clarity. There is a lot of repetition and some out-of-sequence stuff but I have left it like she related it to show what Mama kept surfacing in her writing which took place over about three months. (Feb - Apr 1999)

When she and I talked she enriched these stories to a much better degree than she did when she wrote it down. Writing caused her to lose her train of thought some times.

For example, if she told you about moving to Wilmington, NC in 1943, she would tell you some of the following that she may or may not have remembered to write down:

- At the time of the move Mama was barely 22 years old and had four children - Margaret (6 months), Julian (1½), Ridsen (3½) and Charles (5).

They had no car when they moved but packed everything and everybody including pigs and chickens in the open moving truck that was borrowed.

- Mama cooked for us and two boarders, Mr. Raymond Watts and Robert Hanna, and this is where Ris kept hiding his bread.

- There were blackouts regularly because the Germans were just off the N.C coast.

- When we moved to Maffitt Village, the government housing, animals could not go so the livestock were slaughtered and the pork meat was cured but it did not cure and the meat

spoiled except for the sausage Mama canned.

- Daddy found someone to sell him a used car and let Daddy borrow the car to drive to Wadesboro to get the money from Grandpa Coley. After work everyone piled in the car and drove the 4 hours or so on the roads back to Wadesboro, got the money and returned to Wilmington in time to go to work the next morning.

- etc. etc.

- These are just some examples of extra things Mama remembered when she verbally tells her stories.

I have really enjoyed listening to Mama review this history. It is interesting to see how different people can live the same events but then, after a lot of other history has passed, can remember the same events differently.

I hope some of this will trigger memories and cause you to further explore that history with Mama. I can assure you that you will find that there is a rich history there that will certainly add value and understanding to your lives.

After she wrote a broad based story I asked her to go back and tell a little about each child. As you can see she tends to generally talk about us as a group and does not just stick to the child she is supposed to be reviewing. I then asked her to list our houses and then to talk about her and dad's history.

Hope you get a lot from this. Mama put a lot of effort into this writing. Consider it a work in progress because: a lot is missing, the grammar needs improvement, the organization can stand some improvement, and there are typos I missed.

Love, Charles

It was in the Spring of 1937 that I was at church playing the piano and this young man and his cousin were in the back of the church and he said to his cousin, "I'm going to marry that girl" and his cousin said her father is wealthy and you would not stand a chance. Well a carnival came to town and this young man saw me at the carnival and asked would I let him take me to ride on a tilt-a-whirl and I said yes. He got sick and couldn't ride anything else and he asked me if he could walk me home. I said yes and that's how it got started – He wouldn't let me out of his sight and on Mother's Day 1937 he asked me to meet his folks that lived in Roseboro, N.C. His sister lived in Wadesboro and they let us go with them. It was a nice weekend his father had some grape wine and it was so good he gave me a jar to take home with me. Well he was so in love with me he said he wouldn't let me out of his sight. On September 13, 1937 we went to Chesterfield and got married. On August 29, 1938 Charles Thomas was born. I delivered him at home and he weighted 9 lbs. I nursed him for seven months and in seven months I was pregnant again. November 22, 1939 Riden was born and weighed 11 lbs. 4 oz.

When we first got married we stayed with Mama and Daddy until November. We moved out into one of Daddy's rented houses. I was working at West Knitting and Cecil was working at Wade Mill. I was on 1st shift and Cecil was on 3rd shift. When Mama and Daddy found out I was going to have a baby they wanted us to move into a house beside them. The house I was born in, Charles was born there too. When I was six months pregnant Cecil got a job selling life insurance and got a used car. Before Charles was born in 1938 Cecil planted a big garden. We had lots of vegetables. Mama cooked what Cecil gathered-beans, beets, tomatoes, squash, bell pepper and string beans. Well, after Charles was born Cecil's sister Flossie came and helped me make a lot of pepper relish. After Christmas Cecil wanted to move and we moved into a house on West Avenue. In February we found out I was going to have another baby. Daddy wanted us to move back close to them and he had #1 house on Sikes Avenue and Ris was born on November 22, 1939. Dr. Boyce had to take this baby as he was so big he weighted 11 lbs. 4 oz. and I had two babies as Charles was only 15 months old. Well Grandma Ackerman came up and helped me as Mama made me stay in bed 9 days while grandma was there. Cecil's Aunt Katie in Fayetteville died and he took Charles and Grandma to her funeral. Aunt Katie had a son named Raymond Ackerman Cecil had another Aunt named Georgie McCormick and her husband was named Richard.

In 1938 we lived in a house beside of Mama where Charles was born. When Charles was 3 months old Cecil wanted to move in a house on West Avenue. We have been here about three months after I found out I was pregnant and had to wean him and Daddy had an empty house on Sikes Avenue and when Charles was ten months old we moved into that house and Cecil was real mean to me. Charles was crying and to shut him up he put him in a dark room and he cried until he couldn't cry for calling Mama. Well that was just one of Cecil's meanness to me. We moved to Fayetteville when Charles was two and Ris ten months old. He got sick and we brought him back to Mama's. I stayed until Ris was 13 months old and Cecil was transferred back to Fayetteville.

Well Ris was born in 1939 we still lived in the house where he was born until 1940 we started going to church and Cecil got saved and he tried to live right. When he got saved he had taken some light bulbs from work and some cloth he went to the mill and offered to pay for it and the

man told him he didn't owe them anything and his boss cried and said he had never had anyone come and try to pay for something they had taken. We had a good youth choir and enjoyed singing. Well Cecil got transferred to Fayetteville in July of 1940 and he soon quit that job and went to work for the government at Fort Bragg. In November 1940 Ris got real sick with colitis and was so weak he couldn't hold his head up. We came home and we took him to Dr. McGogin in Morven. He gave us a prescription to get medicine in Wadesboro. He called the druggist and he opened the store at 9 p.m. to get the medicine for us. Well I stayed on with Mama for a few weeks. November 4th was election day and Cecil came home and within four miles of Wadesboro he had a bad wreck and was in the hospital. They let him out but his back was hurt and in 1956 he had an accident on a house he was building and the doctor in Anson County Hospital x-rayed him and it showed his back had been broken in that wreck in 1940.

In 1935 Cecil rented a farm to help Lossie as her husband wouldn't work. They had a good garden and her husband started coming over eating and it made Cecil mad. He and Lossie had a fuss and he left and came to Wadesboro. In 1944 Cecil had a car and he sold it to make a down payment on a house on Vance Street in Laurinburg. We moved and Charles had to change schools. I went with him although I had had a miscarriage. In December 1944 Cecil got notice to go to Fayetteville for test for the draft. Cecil and three boys had the mumps and the doctor stamped rejected on his papers and on December 28 I conceived number five child. He was born September 28, 1945. In June 1945 my father had a stroke. We went to see him in December 1945 and he gave us the peach farm in Morven. Cecil was working at Maxton air base making gliders for the war. I worked there too and we had to ride the bus from Laurinburg. It was after that job Cecil tried to make things. My father let him have the money to buy equipment to make small things. They didn't sell and his brother took his machines and he worked at railway express for a while.

Risden had colitis when he was eleven months old and he liked to have died. We were living in Fayetteville, NC and we came home and my mother said lets take him to the doctor in Morven and the doctor has his office in his home. He gave us prescriptions and even called the druggist and got us the medicine and the baby began to get better but he had problems with his colon ever after that.

In 1940 Cecil went to work at Fort Bragg, an army base. We moved several times until 1941 we lived in Fayetteville, NC. On September 18, 1941 number three son was born. We moved back to Wadesboro and rented a two room apartment from Sally Edwards until we could find a house. Then we moved into a little four room house and number four child was born it was a girl. She weighed 11 lbs. 4 oz. We named her for the doctor's wife as she was the 4th child of ours he delivered and he asked us to name her for his wife Margaret. In 1943 we moved to Wilmington so Cecil could work in the shipyards as war was about to happen. We rented a filling station building and two of our friends, Mr. Watts and Robert Hanna stayed with us a while. The government built some houses for the workers from the shipyard and we got one of those for a while. The children were getting older and we needed to get settled in for they would be going to school.

In 1944 we moved to Laurel Hill, NC and Charles started school September 1944. While we were there some older boys would pick fights with my boys and one day while we were at work they took their Daddy's rifle and one son held it and while the other was going to pull the trigger, we got saved that time. We moved to Laurinburg in October 1944 and Charles entered school in Laurinburg. Cecil had many jobs and he thought he could make small things to sell and he tried that but couldn't make enough money. In 1945 number five child Kenny was born. We named him for his grandmother Ackerman's father (Kenneth). When he was three months old my father gave us 40 acres of land and the timber on the land was used for framing us a little house. We rented a farm for one year until we could get into the new home. In August of 1946 the baby boy Kenneth was very ill and needed surgery to save his life. I stayed with him three weeks until he was out of danger. At that time Charles was in 2nd grade. Ris was in 1st grade and we moved into our new home January 1947. Everything was rationed; meat, shoes, sugar. It was an awful time during the rationing of food and shoes, tires, appliances, while we were renting the farm we had lots of vegetables and cantaloupe, watermelons and Charles and Ridsen helped gather this produce for market.

When Charles was a baby we went to visit Lossie and she was really having a bad time. Her husband wouldn't work and in 1937 she was living in an old house when you were in bed you could see thru holes in roof. We spent one night there. She had seven children and they were in such bad shape. She finally left the children and came to stay at our house until she could get a divorce and she married Dolf Beard. He built a pretty new house and she had a son by this husband. She left him as he got to be mean. She went to Thomasville, NC to an orphanage and Antha, Festus' wife worked there too. She stayed there for years. She told us what happened. Cecil offered to rent the farm and help raise vegetables so they could eat as she was borrowing flour from neighbors each day to make a small hoecake of bread and they were in such dire need. Cecil worked hard and had a good garden and then her husband started hanging around and eating with them and it made Cecil mad but he tried to help her in the bad time. She finally divorced him and a friend that was her husband's cousin helped her and she finally married him and had a very nice son name Alton Beard. She got a job at the children's orphanage in Winston Salem, NC. She had twins about the age of Charles.

In 1942 we lived in Creedmore where Cecil and my brother worked to build Camp Butner. We lived in a small cabin in a cow pasture. I was pregnant with Margaret. I had to cook on a wood stove and the little kitchen was so small. We had only two beds and my brother and a friend stayed with us. I made breakfast and packed lunches for the three men. I was so glad to get into a littler better place. In 1951 Cecil had a car wreck and was unable to work for a long time. Charles and Ridsen and Jul picked cotton to help buy food. I had another baby, Rose in March 1952 and the man that had a mortgage on our house was foreclosing and it was put up for sale. I wrote to Oral Roberts to pray for us and in a week this big car drove up in our yard, it was Dr. Allen, Chief of Staff at the hospital and he offered to go with Cecil to the bank and helped him to borrow the money to pay it off and we were able to live on there. Charles would hitch rides to Wadesboro and sold Christmas cards and gave Cecil the profit he made and Charles, Ris and Joe picked cotton and gave Cecil their money and we were able to survive until he got able to work again. Charles won a beautiful candle holder set with a rose in plastic in the bottom I still have it. He gave it to me and I treasure it as he always remembered me when he got to take trips with

school friends. All my children as they grew up always brought me things that I treasure so much.

I kept their clothes clean and even though we didn't have much we had them to read the Bible and to know about God.

Julian got his foot cut real bad and his brothers helped him get to the house and Dr. Burnett came out and took him to his office and sewed it up. Cecil taught the boys to work with him on the job. They all learned to do all kinds of work that has helped them all their lives. We didn't have much but we were visiting in the country and the prisoners were doing road work and Cecil took a little change and got them cold drinks to divide but Cecil had a tender heart and always if he knew neighbors were in need he would divide. That's the example he had to show his children and they mostly all have that same feeling.

This was in 1953 I was working in the knitting mill we made T-shirts, briefs, shirts with collars and pleats in the front I bought all the underwear needs at that time and they always looked nice.

In 1952 Dr. Allen did a vasectomy on Cecil so I wouldn't have any more children and in July 1952 I go a job and put wrangler jeans on layaway for the boys and then I could get T-shirts and shorts for the boys real cheap. The lady that was in charge of the 2nd's table would save me the best ones and I could buy the boys underwear.

We had many problems with housekeepers when the older children went to school. One woman stole my sheets and corn I had frozen in the freezer. My neighbor told me that she saw these two women go to my house and leave with bags and we got to checking and they had already stolen lots of stuff when Charles was a senior, Ris a junior, Ken a sophomore, Margaret a freshman. Four children in high school they all did well. When mascots were chosen for Charles' class they chose Joan for the girl and Jerry Livingston for the boy. Joan was such a pretty girl. Margaret was Marshall that year. Margaret was the prettiest girl in Morven school.

I want to go back to early homes we lived in. First we moved out in November 1937 into one of my fathers houses for rent. I was working at West Knitting Mill in Wadesboro making men's underwear. Cecil was working at Wade Mill in Wadesboro where they made cloth. I worked 1st shift Cecil worked 3rd shift. We bought our first furniture from Cecil's brother Festus. He worked for a furniture company and he had some used things - a cabinet, oil stove, the one bedroom suite that we got from him, Mama gave us a table and chairs and lots of little things like some dishes, two plates, two cups and some forks and spoons. In February 1938 we moved into the house beside my parents house which is where Charles was born. When Charles was five months old we moved to a small house on West Avenue and Cecil was working for an insurance company - Home Security. He sold a lot of insurance. We decided to move closer to Mama and this house was four rooms and I was pregnant with Ridsen. He was born in 1939 November 22 in that house we started going to church of God and we joined a youth choir. We had a lot of new friends and we both loved to sing. In 1940 in September we moved to Fayetteville, NC. Cecil was transferred with the insurance company then, Cecil went to work for a clothing store. We lived down in the country as I was pregnant with Julian that's where we lived out in a field



and Cecil had gone to work for construction at Fort Bragg, an army base. That's where I was going across the field to get some milk and told the children to stay in the yard but Ris came after me crying and I had to go back and get him and finish getting my milk. That's when my brother come down to see us and he got scared and left because he thought the house was haunted. Well in about that time my baby sister came and stayed a week. Cecil's sisters Mae and Lossie stayed with us a month or two. We got a house in Fayetteville and Cecil was working for the army base. In August I went to Wadesboro to be close to my doctor. Julian was born September 18, 1941. When he was 10 days old Cecil took me back home and Grandma Ackerman went and helped me 2 or 3 weeks. About that time Charles got sick with membranes croup and I sat up night and day holding him on my shoulder because he couldn't breathe. We used a home remedy that made him better; there was nothing that could be done at that time for it (Membranes croup). On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese. The army was having maneuvers all along Pee Dee River and all around Anson County.

At that time there was a lot of construction going on all around so Cecil got a job doing that and we moved several times. We lived in Lumberton and Charles got too close to the fire in fireplace and his leg got burned. We moved back home to Mama and finally found a two rooms at Mrs. Sally Edwards and in November before Margaret was born we found a nice little home in a field and that's where we lived until Margaret was six months old and at that time Cecil was working in Wilmington at the shipyard. We found a filling station building and we moved there, pigs and chickens and all. Mr. Watts and my cousin stayed with us until November. We killed the hogs and got a house in Maffitt Village and just across from us was a prison camp for Germans. They were fenced in like cattle. In 1944 my baby sister ran away and got married and my parents were so upset. We went to see them but before this Cecil found a used car and we went to Daddy to borrow the money to buy it. We soon moved back to Wadesboro and he was picking peaches on the farm Daddy finally gave us. I canned a lot of peaches. We moved in August 1944 to Laurel Hill, NC and that's where Charles started to school. Cecil was working at that time at Maxton Air Base and I got a job there too. We were making gliders for the use in the invasion of Normandy. I had a miscarriage that November and Cecil got called in the draft to go to Fayetteville for an exam. Cecil and the three boys had the mumps and when he told the examiner that he got out of bed with mumps and left the three boys sick the man stamped rejected on his paper and told him to go home. He said to Cecil I don't know why they do things like this. In December 1944 I got pregnant with Ken and we were staying in a little house Cecil bought. He sold our car to make a down payment. We lived there and Ken was born in September 1945. In June of 1945 my father had a stroke and after Ken was born we went at Christmas to see Daddy and he told Cecil to go to town and get a deed for the peach farm made to Cecil and me for our lifetime and at our death to go to our bodily heirs and that's what Cecil did and we packed and moved into a house called the Meachum Place so Cecil could work on our house. He got tenants to farm the land and in between selling the produce he was raising he worked on the house. My brother (Doug) laid the cement blocks. We had to move in January 1947. But while we were farming in August of 1946 Ken who was eleven months old got sick and almost died - he had lock bowels. They gave him only 15 minutes to live and they opened him up pulled the intestines apart and sewed him back up and they told me if he lived it would be a miracle. I had weaned him (as he was nursing) about two weeks earlier and the doctor told me to give it back to him as they didn't think he would live but we prayed and he lived. God was so good to me to let

me keep my baby. While we were at the Meachum Place there was a little place called Sneedsboro close and a good friend brother John Shavers was preaching and he asked me to come and play the organ and I did. Everybody prayed for my baby. We all were so grateful.

It was while Cecil was working on our house one evening he told me to drive the car home. I had never even tried to drive but he told me to do it. When I got near the house and I saw a car coming and I had to cut across the road fast so I did and I couldn't get control and I crossed the ditch, ran over a tree, hit the corner of the house and tore up a tire, but it was a miracle that we didn't get killed as I had the children in the car. God was watching over us all as he had special work for each of my children. They are fulfilling their commission.

Cecil sold a lot of vegetables and watermelons and cantaloupes. Charles and Ridsen (seven and six years old) helped gather this stuff for the big trucks came by and bought the stuff.

When he (Cecil) got our house ready for bath fixtures Mr. Little helped Cecil as they were rationed. We got a tub, sink and kitchen sink due to Mr. Little's goodness to us.

I go back to 1943, March it was so cold we got a call that Cecil's sister (Mary Lois) was dying from TB in a sanitarium in Fayetteville. Cecil went and his sister Flossie Butler and Roscoe was there when the doctor said she was dying. He gave her something to help her as she was hemorrhaging blood through the mouth from the lungs. Cecil called for me to catch a bus to Fayetteville but I didn't get the message and when I wasn't on the last bus he got on the next one at midnight to Wadesboro and I got ready and we caught a bus back to Fayetteville and it was so cold. Temperature was down to 10 - 20 degrees. We stopped at Aunt Georgie, Cecil's aunt and she didn't give us any coffee and I was so hungry but we went on to the funeral but I had to borrow a dress to wear from my sister-in-law. I didn't have many clothes. Mary Lois had written a letter to her sister Mae to take care of her two young sons (Gene and Earl). Well Festus, Cecil's brother, got mad about the letter and they had a big fight anyway. We went on to the funeral and Mae didn't let anybody stop her from keeping the boys which she raised as her own. She wasn't married at the time. Her husband had went to Florida and got a divorce from her but she got a job and did well by the boys Gene and Earl. She met a nice man and married him (Pate) and they had twin boys and a daughter. She would give me Gene and Earl's clothes they had grown out of and my youngest son could wear them.

Go back to 1940 when we lived in Fayetteville. There was a dairy called Cumberland County Dairy and Cecil would take us to get ice cream and milkshakes. Charles was three years old and Ris was two and Charles would say to his father, "Daddy I'll have a milkshake. What will you have?" So sweet they really loved to go there. My father called Ridsen glass eye he had such pretty blue eyes and my father loved him so much. My father was eighty years old at that time. My mother petted Charles and rocked him until his feet touched the floor as he was her oldest grandson. She and Daddy loved him. My mother was fifty years old at that time. She married Daddy at twenty-six, Daddy was fifty-six but they got along well.

When Ris was two and three years old, he would hide his bread under the chair seat and Cecil caught him and really spanked him. When we lived in Wilmington the war was on and we

couldn't buy sugar, meat, car tires, shoes and a lot of other things without a coupon. They issued little books of stamps to use when we went to buy things. I had a problem so the two men that stayed with us to work in the shipyard knew I needed sugar to make desserts and Robert Hanna had lots of children with stamps and he never gave me a one. But Mr. Watts would bring me stamps back when he went home. I didn't like the way my cousin acted for he loved desserts and I had to make them for the rest of us and he really ate his share (but Robert Hanna could not share stamps to buy the sugar). But when we moved to Maffitt Village a government housing project we didn't keep the boarders any more. Mr. Watts was working to get the money to send his daughter to business school in Charlotte, NC. Cecil had a sister with two sons older than mine and she gave my boys the things her son grew out of. Before we had a car we had to catch the bus. When we moved to Wilmington I had to take number three son to a specialist at a childrens' hospital and I had the three boys and a seven month old daughter and after I saw the doctor I had to get the medicine at the drug store. The three boys were running all over the place and when I went to pay I must have dropped a twenty dollar bill with the frustration I was in I never could find it.

When I worked at the Air Force base in Maxton, NC we had a girl (in her 20's) to stay with the children and she had to stay at our house at night and after I had to quit work I found she was a bed wetter and our mattress was ruined. When Cecil got the job at the air base he was skilled in intricate carpenter work. He made the wooden glider parts and they gave me a job of sewing the cloth that fitted over the wooden wings. I had to wear pant suits the 1st I have ever worn as I had to do a lot of climbing when the cloth was fitted over the wings. There was a liquid that they put over the cloth to make it strong and tight as the gliders was to be pulled by bombers and the soldiers would jump out a plane. The bombers could pull two gliders with lot of men and that's one reason it was a success they could fly over the channel at night and drop the soldiers out the parachutes.

I had two brothers in 1945 in service. My youngest brother was on a ship and he was a gunner and when they got to Okinawa they had to shoot over the heads as our troops went ashore. He said that he didn't sleep for days as they couldn't stop they had to take the Island. He came back shell shocked and wasn't able to do much work after that.

Cecil followed construction work and later organized his own company. We lived in Morven twelve years as Cecil built us a house but he worked in Wadesboro. In 1956 Charles graduated from high school and went to state college for one year. Mr. C.B. Deane our congressman helped him try to get into the Air Force academy and he made 4th alternate and the next year he gave him an appointment to the navel academy and he passed and graduated in 1961. But the the Air Force offered that if he would come into the Air Force he wouldn't have to fly as he was prone to sea sickness and plane sickness so he switched to Air Force. They sent him to Penn State for his Masters in Aerospace Engineering and he graduated from Penn State in 1963. He retired as Colonel in 1985. In 1967 he volunteered to go to Vietnam for two years. While there he adopted four orphaned Vietnamese children and they are all doing well and have brought him a lot of happiness. He has been working for the defense department since 1985. He'll soon retire from that job.

Number two son (Risden) received an appointment from Mr. C.B. Deane and he tried out for the Air Force academy and made 4th alternate but he joined the navy for three years and was in radar school when he was checked at Oakland Hospital and was in serious trouble. They said he had a brain tumor. He was in radar school and was the highest in his class and they called for us to go out there as it was very serious. Three doctors were so hurt as they said they had checked his records from radar school and he had a brilliant mind and they wanted us there when they made the final test so Cecil went out on Thursday night and called for me to come on Friday. There was the whole town praying for him as we lived in a small town and news traveled fast. He told us when we got there he didn't want to be like so many of the service men in his ward (Neurology) and he was prepared for the fluid to be drawn from his brain and they told us if it was too deep they would leave it and let him live the rest of his life at home. When the three doctors came to tell us what was going on they were crying and told us it was there but was gone. My husband told them that God had touched him there was our Pastor prayed on Friday when he found out I had to go He asked God to touch him for his sake. He told the Lord you know how I have lived before you and please do this for me and God heard all the prayers.

He finished his radar school and went on a ship and was at Formosa when they thought they were almost going to have to fight. He finished his tour of duty and come back to California and started college. He went to City College and State College and to Santa Clara University Law School. He graduated highest in the class and received an appointment to the U.S. Attorney General's Office. Tom Clark went out to give him the award. The dean told the class that no other student had brought this honor to the school. He went to Washington and stayed four years and then went back to California and has been in private practice since. He is 59 years old and still working. He had three children and has three grandchildren, I'm very proud of him and Charles.

I have eight children, four boys, four girls, twenty-one grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. I'll tell you about my jobs. I worked in a mill where we made underwear for men and boys, T-shirts, briefs, and long underwear for 9 years. We moved to Charlotte and we were living close to the hospital and I got a job as a nurse assistant. I liked it as I always wanted to be a nurse. Well the nurse instructors saw how I enjoyed nursing the sick and they wanted me to try for a LPN. I studied three months and took the test to get me into school and passed. I started in October 1967 and finished September 1968 and started working for pay. The rate of pay at that time was 2.50 hr. I worked every other weekend to make ends meet. Slowly I got a raise; but not much raise I was working in 1977 at \$4.20 an hour. I had my car and trailer paid off so I decided to do part-time. The pay there was \$3.20 hour. Well I worked in a nursing home they paid a little better and I had to have eye surgery in 1982 and I was working 2nd shift and the night lights hurt so bad. I retired after 24 years in nursing at age seventy-one. I loved every minute of it as I feel like I was a missionary nurse. I did so much more for my patients than the other nurses. I had lots of eye surgeries and blindness in the left eye. The doctors don't know what happened to it. I can see to drive short distances like to the grocery store.

Cecil got cancer of the prostate in 1985. They did radiation on him but it spread all over lower abdomen and he died in 1986 at age 75 after having a stroke.

My oldest daughter and husband came back to Charlotte in 1976 and bought Century 21 Real Estate and they did well. My number two was their lawyer and they sold the business in 1985 for a big profit. She has two children, two grandchildren. My number two daughter worked for Eastern Airlines for a long time. When Eastern folded the employees were given a chance to get computer courses and she took advantage and it has been a big help to her. She has two children and two grandchildren and all is doing well.

Number 4 son Grady Kenneth went to the Air Force in 1966 and served four year. He came out and went to college and is an accountant for the IRS and can retire in two years with full benefits. He has two children, one girl and one boy and one grandson at this time.

Number three son Julian has been in construction and has had a lot of jobs. He has three sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren. He is in Jamaica helping the people learn some trades to make a better living.

Number three daughter works at Presbyterian Hospital. She has been there twenty-six years. She has never married and loves the babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She feels like they are her babies.

Number 4 daughter has worked at Eastern and has eight children that keep her busy. Three sons in college and she will be forty-seven on her birthday. Her husband is an engineer for Mecklinburg County. They live in a small town of Weddington, NC. I am so thankful to God for all his blessings to me and my children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. My newest great grandchild was born January 27, 1999 the other born February 9th my mother's birthday. My youngest daughter was born on Grandma Ackerman's birthday March 26, 1952 and her number three son was born on March 26, 1980 and his great grandmother's birthday and his mother's birthday March 26, 1952.

When my first son Charles was born on August 29, 1938 and he was named for his great grandfather on his father's side. The great grandfather was in World War I and he got a tract of land and had it in closed in a good fence and when Grandpa Ackerman Cecil's father died he was buried in this lot. (June 1950)

When I was pregnant with Margaret we had been to see my parents I was six months pregnant and we had a flat tire and had to ride on the rim for about forty miles that was a terrible ride but it didn't hurt the baby as she weighed 11 lbs and 4 oz at birth.

Ris was four years old and he didn't want to eat his biscuits and he would sit on them until one day his Daddy found out about it and really spanked him. Where we lived in Wilmington the yard was full of sand spurs and the children got so many of them in their feet.

I have already told you about some of the places I worked but I'll tell a few more. My 1st job was West Knitting in 1937 and I got laid off in the Spring of 1938 and at that time we could sign up for unemployment benefits. I was five months pregnant with Charles and we had to go to the courthouse to sign up and I went on the right day and the man had my check but wouldn't give it

to me and I went home crying and Cecil went up to the courthouse and got in a fight with the man (the Deputy Sheriff) they charged him with assault and my father went and paid his bond and they had a trial and it embarrassed the officials of the employment commission. The court made them give me all that was coming to me in a lump sum. After Charles was born I didn't work at public work until 1952 after my last child was born. The doctor did surgery on Cecil so I wouldn't have anymore children and I got a job at West Knitting and worked until 1959. I worked at Mt. Gilead three years and when I was working there we made ladies lingerie (gowns, strips, panties bras, house coats and a lot more). I was at work on November 22, 1963 when the president was killed; they closed the plant that day as everyone was crying and couldn't work. I next worked at Memorial Hospital as a nurse assistant from 1965 until 1967 and I entered the LPN program and graduated in September 1968, and I worked at Memorial Hospital about three years and then went to Mercy Hospital in 1972 and worked two years then to Presbyterian in 1977 and then retired. But I got so bored I went back to Wadesboro, Anson County Hospital and from there to Wadesboro Nursing Home until 1985 when Cecil got sick and I stayed home and took care of him until he died in September 1986. In 1988, I went part-time at Autumn Care, another nursing home, back to Wadesboro nursing home and had to have eye surgery and I had twenty-four year in nursing and had to quite because of my eyes.

I have high blood pressure and I'm a diabetic. The doctor has tried many B.P. Meds but can't seem to get one that will get it stable. I have my diabetes under control and I watch my diet to help.

I have a son living in Charlotte and he helps me a lot. One son is in San Jose, California a lawyer; one son in Jamaica trying to help those poor people down there and my son (eldest) a sixty year old in Maryland. I visit him when I can. I have four daughters in Charlotte. Eldest daughter travels a lot, number two daughter works for US Air, one daughter works at Presbyterian Hospital. She has been there 27 years. The youngest has eight children, three boys are in college and the other children are doing nicely in school.

I have two sisters and one brother living and all four of us have Glaucoma and Duke Hospital Research Center has taken blood from us to research to see if they can find something to help others with Glaucoma. All of my children have good jobs and help me a lot since I'm unable to work. I'm richly blessed with my children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. When my sister and I get together we love to sing as we were a trio for years and sung at church, funerals and on radio. We always went back to, when we could, the country church named Peters Creek Baptist Church in Cumberland County near Roseboro, NC. this is the church Grandma Ackerman raised her children in-a lot of friends would meet and have Homecoming Day and we were always invited to attend and sing. We loved to go because they always had so much good food and always told us how they enjoyed our singing. My oldest children remember a lot of those times and they are good memories for them. My father died in June 1946 and my mother died October 19, 1974. I have always had a tender heart and my father and mother prayed with us children everyday and taught us to do right. I was saved when I was very young and when I could read there was a banner at the back of the church that said Heb C9 "Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever" and John 3.16 "For God So Loved The World, He Gave His Only Son So That Who So Ever Believeth In Him Would Never Perish But Have Everlasting Life".

I'm so glad I could see that and I believe if children had the Ten Commandments before them they would be better and there wouldn't be so much bad stuff going on all around us.

I married Cecil September 13, 1937 and we lived with my Mama and Daddy until November-at that time I found out I was pregnant with Charles Thomas. Daddy wanted us to live close to them as we had moved into one of his rental houses up on Sikes Avenue. Well we moved next door to Mama and Daddy and Charles was born in that house and that was the house I was born in 1921. Charles was born in August 29, 1938 and he had a little something wrong in his throat and Mama went at 4:00 a.m. in the morning after he was born to a neighbor that had a lot of experience as she came to Anson County from away up in the mountain country. She mixed some things together and they got the baby to swallow it and in 30 minutes he was fine but another thing happened to him he got yellow all over they called it jaundice. Well this same lady went into the woods and found a plant she used and she brought the leaves back and put it in his diaper and when he wet the things in the plant absorbed into his body and it cleared up the yellow in three days. When Charles was five months old, Cecil wanted to moved into uptown Wadesboro. At that time he had quit the Wade Mill and was selling life insurance for a company called Home Security Life Insurance. We found out when Charles was six months old I was pregnant so we moved back to Sikes Avenue in another one of my father's rental houses. By the way my father had a lot of rental property. Charles' first birthday was in this house and Ris was born here. Charles was the average baby and learned to talk early. Cecil bought a high chair for him and Cecil fed him until he was old enough to feed himself. He started walking at nine months old and he fell backwards and it scared him so much he didn't really walk until he was thirteen months old. He learned to talk so Cecil was always trying to get him to say words. On November 22, 1939 Ris was born. Charles couldn't talk much so he named Ris (baby) Day. So, we all called Ris Day until he started school. When Charles was two and Ris was nine months Cecil was transferred to Fayetteville with this life insurance company and soon after moving to Fayetteville, NC, Cecil started working at the army base, Fort Bragg. I didn't work at this time. We lived in an apartment close to Cecil's Aunt Georgia and Uncle Richard. Aunt Georgia was crazy about the two little boys of ours. She had lost her only daughter in childbirth and these little boys really helped her to adjust to the loss of her daughter and her grand baby. They buried them together and Aunt Georgia gave me some of the baby clothes that her little grandbaby would have worn. she had the most beautiful flowers - Dahlias large and all colors. Well about this time Cecil was treating me badly and I left him with the boys and I went back to my parents who welcomed us with open arms. Cecil came up in about two weeks and begged me to come back. I was still in Wadesboro and I got pregnant with number three son but didn't move back right away in the last of January 1941. I moved back with him and we first moved into an old house in an open field. Cecil went to work with his brother-in-law at Fort Bragg. Cecil didn't have a car. Cecil's sister got tuberculosis about his time she had two small boys named Gene and Earl and Charles and Earl were close in age. We lived in this open field and across from the field the people told Cecil they would sell us milk and butter.

Go back to 1940. Ris got sick with colilic and was getting weaker every day. They wanted me to keep him in the hospital and I said no if he had to die I'd take him to my parents so we went to Wadesboro and my parents were so upset. My mother was a devout Christian and the Lord spoke to her to take Ris to a doctor in Morven a small town nine miles away. We did and it was

night but the doctor saw us and gave us prescriptions and even called the druggist and he opened the drug store and we got the medicine and with the 1st dose with mom and dad prayers he started getting better. Well I stayed in Wadesboro for several weeks and Cecil was coming up and had a wreck four miles from Wadesboro. He was carried to Anson County Hospital and he had hurt his back real bad. They let him out - we found out later with a broken back. Well he went back into this house in the middle of the field. We lived there until June or July before we moved into a little house out from Fayetteville, NC. In August of 1941, I went to stay with my parents so I could have the same Doctor to deliver my third son Julian. We named him for a brother of mine that was killed in a car wreck. I was 13 years old when my brother got killed. On September 18, 1941 Julian was born, a 9 pound baby. On December 7, 1941, my father's birthday, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Traveling from Fayetteville to Wadesboro was terrible as the military was in Maneuvers all over the country. Cecil was working at Fort Bragg.

Going back to 1946 - when we lived at the Meachum Place, Charles was 8 years old Ris was 7 years old. My father gave us a farm. 35 acres clear and five acres in timber. Cecil used the timber for the framing of our new home. My brother did the block work and Cecil did the rest. In January 1947, we moved into the new house there was a lot of peach trees on the land and Cecil pulled up the trees and Charles and Ris had to pull them into piles to be burned. Cecil wanted to clear the land to farm it but it was very poor sandy land and couldn't grow much. He traded with FHA to set out pine trees on the land. Well Charles and Ris and Jul and Ken set out 24 acres of pine trees the government paid so much an acre for this and furnished the plants. Cecil tried to raise hogs and to sell for pork meat and that didn't pay. He tried cotton and that didn't pay. He tried Sweet potatoes made bushels and put them in a place to kiln dry them. We never knew what happened but all those potatoes rotted. Wasted time and money, and that seemed to be Cecil's luck. The boys were getting old enough to start college, and the part of farming was about over for us.

### **The Story of Charles Thomas Ackerman**

In 1956 Charles graduated from high school and was accepted to State university in Raleigh NC. He was salutatorian in 12th grade and we were so proud of him. Our congressman, C.B. Dean gave him an appointment to the Air Force Academy. He made fourth alternate, and Mr. Dean told us if he could go one year in college he could give him another appointment and he did to the Naval Academy and he passed. He left to go there in July 1957 and graduated in 1961. He was prone to motion sickness and the Air Force offered him if he would switch to Air Force they would send him to Penn State for a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He graduated in 1963 and was stationed in a New Mexico base, he married and had one daughter. He volunteered to go to Vietnam one year but stayed for 2 years. During the war he received medals and I cried those 2 years and my hair turned white and I prayed myself to sleep every night. God was good to me he let my son come back to us. We all had grateful hearts for that. While he was over there he adopted 3 children 2 boys, and one girl. Their father got killed in the war these children have done well and we all are proud of them. He retired from the Air Force in 1985 as Col, and went to work for the federal government. He was 60 years old last August 1998 and we had a surprise Birthday party for him he had a lot of the people he had worked under at the party.



His daughter made a video of him from a baby until now and gave it to him for his birthday. It was a great project and She did a great job on it. He plans to retire from this job next year.

Going back to 1957 Charles went to Annapolis for 4 years. Graduated in 1961 while he was there we went to see him as he was very close to his family and he was prone to have motion sickness and he got sick on the ships and the Air Force offered him if he would transfer to Air Force they would send him to Penn State for a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and he did. He stayed there until 1963 and graduated and the Air Force sent him to Alamogordo, New Mexico, and he was married to Louise Marsh in the 60's and in 1965 his daughter Marti was born. He came to North Carolina and Louise and Marti stayed with us. In 1967 he was in a school training for more military work. In 1967 he volunteered to go to Vietnam for one year but he stayed 2 years. He came back in 1969 and while in Vietnam he adopted 3 children Chau, Chah, and Zip and they couldn't speak English and he left them over there in school for a year and they came to Washington as he was stationed there. He bought a house on East University Boulevard Silver Spring, MD. He and Louise divorced in 1968 so he had the children by himself and being a parent with no wife it was known around. Some company sent people to his house to video him and the children in 1980 or 79. He met Anne Manning and they got married on April 28, 1973. We went up to Boston Mass for the wedding. Cedy was working with Eastern Airlines and she got us passes to fly up there. Cecil was best man, Julian and Larry Pool, Cedy's husband were ushers, they went to Jamaica on their honeymoon Anne was graduated from Nursing school with a Masters degree and they lived on East University Boulevard for several years. Cecil went up and remodeled the basement for them. We went to see them often as Cedy could get passes. Cedy was pregnant with Robert at that time and Robert was born on October 13, 1973. Ris's youngest daughter Carla was born October 21, 1973. I had 4 grandchildren born in 1973. Steven Honeycutt, Jeffery Tice, Robert, and Carla. In 1975, Cecil built a large room onto my trailer and Margaret came and helped get the furniture in the new room in April of 1976 Margie and Johnny, Robi and Jeff moved back to Charlotte with Century 21 Real Estate. Charles had Marti often but Louise married Cliff Lyon, and Cliff was a good step father to Marti. They were living in Minnesota when Marti graduated from High school in 1983. Margaret, John, Rob, Jeff, me and my sister Mollie went in a van to her graduation we really had a good time. Cliff and Louise later moved back to Charlotte. Marti started college in Tennessee, and in 1988 graduated from college. I went up with Cliff and Louise for this event. Marti had different jobs as she really didn't know what she wanted to do. Zip graduated from this same college I think in 1986 or 87. When Marti graduated she started working in Washington. Chow was in the Air Force, Chan was in the Marines, and Zip got a good job after she graduated from college. Charles and Anne adopted several other children, Cindy and Herbie, they are doing well. In 1974 when my mother died, I went down to Wadesboro; Margie had come home for the funeral and she took me home and I got Mama's dishes and they are Marti's. Margaret got Mama's kettle, Ris a coffee pot, Charles a bed Mama had when her and Daddy married. Cedy got her piano, Iris got her dining room suite, Mickey got a round glass cabinet for pretty little things, her buffet, a large picture of Mama and my brother Joe when he was about 3 years old, and a large picture of my Daddy. I don't know what the rest of the family got. I'm thinking my brother Doug got her oil heater and a dresser she had in her bedroom. Allen Porter got her bed. In 1978 I started back to work at a nursing home in Marshville-Autumn Care. I got me a new car but it was a lemon. In 1985 Cecil had a biopsy of his Prostate and it was cancer. He took 35 radiation treatments-I

took him every day to get this. In May 1986, he saw his doctor and he told him the cancer had spread all over his lower body. In July he had a stroke, and lived 60 days in ICU at Mercy Hospital. Charles came every weekend to see him never missed a one. Charles loved his Daddy so very much. He did a beautiful eulogy for his Daddy in 1986. I went to Charles's home in Laurel, MD and stayed a month and Anne told me I did more for Charles that month than she had done in a year. We went to different places stopped and had meals together and Cecil had a truck and it still had his scent in it and Charles bought it and still has it. He gave it to Chau but he brought it back to Charles. We are looking forward to my birthday this May in Myrtle Beach. All the Children are planning to go but Charles and Anne are going to Aruba in April for their 26th anniversary. Chan is in Saudi Arabia and Chou is retired from the Air Force. Zip is planning to be married soon. In 1999 Marti is looking for a house to buy.

### **The Story of Ridsen Clyde Ackerman**

In February 1939 we were living in a house on West Avenue in Wadesboro, NC when Ris was conceived in February. I was nursing Charles and I had to wean him, he was 6 months old. We stayed in that house until July 1939 and we moved back into a house on Sikes Avenue where Ridsen was born on November 22, 1939 at 9:30 in the evening. He weighed 11 pounds 4 ounces. The Doctor was with me and said I might be in labor for 2 or 3 days longer as he knew the baby was a big one. He used forceps to help get him in the world. He was a good baby. I would bath him and feed him, and then I had to take care of Charles, as he was only 15 months old. He was on a bottle. Charles couldn't say baby so he called Ridsen "Day" and we called him Day until he started school. We lived in that house until July 1940, then we moved to Fayetteville as Cecil was transferred there with Home Security Life Insurance. We had a nice little house but only stayed there until October of 1940. We then moved into a duplex close to Cecil's Aunt and Uncle, Georgie and Richard McCormick. Aunt Georgie really loved the children as she lost her only child in childbirth and they buried them together, it was a little girl. It really was hard on Aunt Georgie they went every day for years to the grave. My little boys helped her a lot. She really loved them. She gave me some baby cloths of her baby that died and I used them with my next son, number 3.

Cecil was working at Fort Bragg as they were building a lot onto the base. They paid good for the labor at that time. I remember while we were at this location I took the 2 boys to town and got their pictures made and I still have them today. I put me a coat on lay away and Cecil was mean about that, so I didn't get the coat at that time. I left him and moved back to Mamas in Wadesboro, NC and my father paid the man that moved us up. Cecil came up about 2 weeks later and my father was so mad at him. He was going to shoot him but Mama and I begged him not to and he still was mad and didn't have much to say to Cecil but he went to the store where I had the coat on lay away and they had just put it out so he got me the coat in December. He came up and I slept with him and that's when I conceived my third son. I moved back with him in February of 1941 and I was very sick. The Doctor said my blood was too low and gave me medicines and my blood improved. Cecil was still working at Fort Bragg and was riding with his sister's husband to work. That's when we were living in a little house out in a field and I was going to get some milk from a neighbor when I left the boys in the yard-Charles was 2, and Ridsen was 1. I looked back and Ris was crying and tried to follow me so I went back and

carried him with me. I'll go back to November 1940, Ris got real sick with colitis and he almost died. We took him home to Mama and Daddy and Mama had a word of knowledge from the lord to take him to a doctor in Morven nine miles from Wadesboro. Well it was late but the Doctor saw us and gave a prescription for him and the doctor called the druggist in Wadesboro and he went and opened the store. We got the medicines and he started to improve in 12 hours. I'll never forget that kind Doctor that saved my baby.

1940 November, Cecil was coming to Wadesboro as it was election year and he had the day off and he had a wreck about 4 miles from Wadesboro and was taken to the hospital. They didn't do much for him his back was hurt and years later a Doctor in Anson County Hospital had to x-ray him and he found that his back had been broken from that wreck. It's a miracle he lived and worked with a broken back. In 1941 we lived in a small 4 room house in the edge of Fayetteville, NC and we lived there and in August of 1941 I went back to Mama's as I wanted to have the same Doctor that had delivered my other sons and in September 18, 1941 Joseph Julian Ackerman was born weighing 9 pounds. He was named for my brother that had gotten killed in a car wreck in 1934. I stayed 10 days and went home. Grandma Ackerman went with us to help me until I was able to do my house work. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed pearl harbor and my mother came to visit us for a week and traveling was terrible as the military was training troops all over the state we had a hard time getting my mother back home. In September 1941 we were moving a lot and Cecil was following the camps they were building all over. We lived in Creedmore in 1942. In May of 1942 I realized I was pregnant with my fourth child. We moved back to Wadesboro, NC and Cecil worked at Monroe, building an army camp there. We lived in a 2 room house rented from Sally Edwards until we found a little house out in a field it was nice compared to other places we had lived. We moved in in November and Margaret was born December 4, 1942. My first baby girl - we were very happy about her. She weighed 11 pounds 4 ounces. I had a very hard time giving birth to her. We moved in 1943 to Wilmington NC where Cecil was working on a dry dock that could go up under the ships to repair them. We moved back to Wadesboro for a few months. Cecil got a job at Maxton Air base where they made gliders to transport soldiers to the invasion of Normandy. That was a bad time. The war was raging.

We moved to Laurel Hill, NC for a few months then to Laurinburg, NC where Ris started school in 1945. Grandma Ackerman was going to help him find his room at school but he cried all the way to school. I couldn't go with him as I was expecting my fifth child which was born on September 28, 1945. My father had a stroke in 1945 (June) and he died in June of 1946. Before he died, he gave us a small farm, 40 acres and we built a house on it. Ken got sick and almost died of locked bowels. We moved into the new house January of 1947 and we were happy to have a new home. Ris started school in Laurinburg, NC in 1945 and continued school in Morven in 1946. He made good grades and graduated Salutatorian. We were very proud of him. He got appointed to the Air Force Academy-he made fourth alternate but something happened and he decided to join the Navy instead in April of 1957. In 1958 he was in radar school and noticed he couldn't see. They sent him to Oakland Naval Hospital-a hospital for the head. They found a brain tumor and called for us to come out as it was very serious but our pastor Brother L.L. Reeder rushed to my mothers house and prayed asking God to touch him as he reminded God of his life and that he had served God for many years. Well when the doctor x-rayed the brain again,

the tumor was gone and we had a miracle from God. He finished his tour of duty and came back to California and started school. He made good grades and did 2 years at city college, and another two years at state college in California and entered Santa Clara University of Law in 1965 and graduated in 1968 highest in his class. Tom Clark former Attorney General came to Santa Clara to give him an award. He was appointed to the attorney generals office - He stayed there four years and never lost a case he tried. We were so proud of him. He left just before Watergate, back to California and is still there practicing Law. He married, has 3 children and 3 grandchildren now. They all are doing well-his eldest daughter finished state college in nursing and has her masters degree in nursing. Her husband finished 20 years in service now is teaching in Modesta CA where they are living. His son works in a grocery store and youngest daughter is a school teacher doing well.

### **The Story of Joseph Julian Ackerman**

He was conceived in Wadesboro at my parents home on December 18th, 1940, and born on September 18, 1941. He married very young and has five children. When he was a baby he lived in Fayetteville, NC. We moved a lot during the war years. It is recorded in the other son's story. He was married in 1959.

He started school in Morven in 1947 and we moved to Wadesboro in time for him to start high school. He skipped a grade and worked part time after graduation with his father who was in construction. He married Eloise Kunda and they had three children., Chuck born 1960, Judy 1961, and Scott, born in 1963. Scott had to have a blood exchange as he was born with something wrong with his blood. His uncle was in that kind of work so he assisted with this blood exchange. He did well with all this procedure and they moved a lot over the country as he could do most anything he wanted. He and Eloise divorced and he married two more times, and had two children by his third wife. He has had several accidents on several jobs, but God didn't let him die. He accepted Christ as savior in 1966-Pastor Morris was his pastor at the church at that time. He had hurt his back and the pastor saw he was in a lot of pain and told him to go into his study; he went and the pastor called in three of his deacons to help him pray for Julian. He was instantly healed and saved when he came out he hugged his Daddy and told him he loved him. It had been 15 years since he had told him he loved him. Cecil and Julian had had a very bad time when he was about 18 years old. He and Cecil forgave each other at that time. Julian had a company of putting insulation in homes he did Cecil's and Larry's new home with this insulation. He has tried lots of jobs - he was a very good sheet rock worker on homes and at Memorial Hospital. He put lots of sheet rock in and did the wall paper. That job lasted a long time as the hospital was expanding and he had a lot to do.

He has worked with his father on a lot of out of town jobs, Cecil was building Tasty Freezes all over North and South Carolina and Georgia. In 1964 I went down to Georgia and spent the week end while they were building one in Columbus, GA. About that time there was a bad ring of car thieves. They stole the car and dismantled them, took the parts away off and put them in warehouses and sold the parts to dealers. I was so afraid they might steal my car I couldn't sleep at night. I was glad to go home. In 1965 when I went to Charlotte and went to work as nurse assistant at Memorial Hospital, I stayed with Julian for a few weeks. Julian went down to

Jamaica a while back and started several businesses down there to help the people learn how to make money as there was so many poor people there. His heart went out to help them. He met a pastor of a small church and he has helped him a lot with a system to help teach the gospel. He sent them a pool so they could baptize the converts. He seems to be happier since he has been doing this.

He helped Ris and Ken put vinyl siding on part of my house. They said they have to take the roof off part of my house and redo it soon. He has grandsons by Chuck, and grand sons by Angelina, and 3 granddaughters by Scott Ackerman. Five grandchildren by Judy his daughter. He is coming back here in May 1999.

### **The Story of Lena Margaret Ackerman**

Go back to 1945, I made her a coat and leggings and cap to match-she looked so sweet in it I made a lot of her cloths. She was 3 years old.

We had been following Cecil all over the country and we were living in Lumberton. Julian was the baby and I found out I was pregnant with number four child in 1942. We moved several times before she was born in Wadesboro, December 4, 1942. She was my first daughter and we were excited. I had a hard time giving birth to her as the doctor said it was a dry birth and she weighed 11 pounds 4 ounces. I was going to name this baby for my doctor as this was the 4th baby he had delivered for me and when it was a girl I told him about my plan to name it for him if it was a boy, and he said to me, "name it for my wife," and I did, Margaret. My mother asked me to name it for his sister that had died and that was Lena and I did. The doctor was happy about us naming her for his wife. The doctor was living and practicing in Anson County and he didn't have a car. The people in the county used horses and buggies and they had to go get him and we had to get some one to go get him and he would stay all day or all night as he needed. He didn't charge but \$15 to deliver a baby but when Margaret was born Cecil gave him \$20. I had 4 small children and I was 21 years old. They all had some sicknesses but all got better as time went on. In 1943 March, Cecil's sister Mary Lois died. Mama kept the children for us to go to the funeral in Fayetteville. In June 1943 Cecil got a job at the ship yard in Wilmington, NC and we moved down there. Margaret was 6 months old. We moved into a government housing project just before her 1st birthday. While we were living in this house in this field over near the railroad station and Cecil had this woman to come for a month to help me and she asked Cecil to go to bed with her we let her go as I had gained my strength back. At Easter that year (1943) Cecil bought the children some baby chicks and they were colored pink, blue and yellow. This neighbor had a dog and he came to our house and killed the chicks. It made Cecil so mad he went to the dogs house and shot the dog under their house. This man's brother was the chief of police; he talked to Cecil but didn't do anything to Cecil for killing the dog. Cecil was working at Camp Sutton in Monroe; he rode to work with a friend until he decided to go to the ship yard in Wilmington.

While we were living at this house Ridsen had a habit of not eating his biscuits he would hide them under himself and Cecil told him he was going to punish him by making him leave home because he told stories about this, well he put his little cloths in a bag and started off in the rain

and we all were crying so hard Cecil called him back; he promised his Daddy he wouldn't tell any more stories. He was 4 years old but he still would hide his bread under his seat when we were living in Wilmington. I don't know how long he hid that but after Ken was born I believe he stopped doing that. When the boy's were small I made biscuits and they loved Karo syrup and butter with their bread.

1943, June, We lived in a filling station the first house we had we had 2 men that stayed with us. Everything was rationed sugar, meats, shoes, tires, and gas. For these men I had to cook breakfast, lunch and dinner and one of them was good to give us stamps. We couldn't buy without them - the other one wouldn't give me any sugar stamps but he expected a lot of deserts.

In 1944 there was a small pond in back of our house. The boys like to play in it with their shoes on and it was ruining their shoes and at the time shoes, meat and sugar and all appliances were rationed. Cecil scared the boys for playing in the water. He told them he was going to leave-he got a bag and they cried so he had to put the bag up they promised not to do that any more and they didn't. In the spring of 1944, I received a card from my father saying my baby sister had got married, she was only 13 years old but looked older. The boy she married was in the navy. Dad was so upset Cecil took me home for a few days. At that time Cecil decided to get a job at Maxton Air Base as they were building gliders at Maxton, NC - we moved back home and he worked a while and decided to move to Laurel Hill NC. Margaret was about 2 years old in September 1944-Charles started school in Laurel Hill and I had started working at the air base sewing parts of cloth for the gliders they covered the wings with cloth and they put a big liquid on that to make them strong. In October 1944 Cecil sold our car and made a down payment on a house in Laurinburg, NC. We moved and Charles had to change schools. About that time I had a miscarriage and had to be taken to Bennettsville, SC. The ambulance broke down on the way and I was so scared. Cecil had fixed me breakfast before we left home and when we got to the hospital they took me to OR and started to do a D&C. I started to vomit and they had to give me a shot to finish the D&C. I finally got back home late that evening and I was so nauseated. Well 2 or 3 weeks later the boys and Cecil got the mumps. He got a notice to go to Fayetteville for exam for the military. When he told the doctor that he had the mumps and had left 3 boys in bed at home, the doctor stamped rejected on his papers and told him to go home - he couldn't understand why there people did things like that. Well about that time, I conceived #5 child Cecil started to work at Railway Express and worked there a month or two. There he got some wood working tools and thought he could make small doll beds and other things. Well he wouldn't sell the stuff he made and he made a good garden that year and sold vegetables to McNair's Grocery. He bought a new crib for the new baby and a pressure cooker pot and I canned a lot that summer. We had to buy a milk goat for Julian and Margaret as they were allergic to other milk. The goat had 2 baby goats white as snow and blue eyes. Well Cecil sold the goat and babies. On September 1945 school started and Ris was to start I couldn't go with him as I had when Charles started and Grandma Ackerman said she'd help him find his room we didn't live far from school I could hear him crying all the way - he did ok I guess. On September 28, 1945, my fifth child was born at home. Dr Summerlin was the doctor and nurse named Sadie Stone was with me. She told Cecil she would come every day and take care of me and the baby if he'd build her some kitchen cabinets. He did and she took care of me and the baby was named Grady Kenneth Ackerman for my neighbor who was named Beula and she was good to me and

her husband was overseas in war she asked me to name him Grady for her husband and I did. Kenneth was for Grandma Ackerman's father. Well that was December 1945 we went to see my father that had a stroke in June 1945 and he told Cecil to go to town and get a lawyer to draw up a deed to a 40 acre farm he wanted to give me and Cecil did and we moved to Morven in 1946 to a rental farm so Cecil could build us a house on the land in August of 1946. Ken was 11 months old. The baby got sick and the Dr said it was locked bowels and that he had to have surgery. He did but the doctor told me it would be a miracle if he lived. We prayed and God gave us back our baby boy. He has always been very special as we almost lost him a time before. Margaret was 4 years old at that time. She was very pretty little girl - our only girl at that time. I made her lots of pretty dresses. We moved into our new home and in February I realized I was pregnant again. I had a pretty hard time carrying this, my 6th child. She was born November 10, 1947 I had 2 sisters and each had a girl that year and Cecil's sister had a girl that year. Ann had a girl, Mollie had a girl, Cecil's sister had a girl and in November I had a 9 pound girl. She was daughter #2 but she had problems for about two months, she would act like she was scared and cry real loud but she began to get better-I used to let Margaret sit in a small rocking chair and hold the baby for me to help in the fields. Cecil had cotton to be picked and I'd take care of the baby and let Margaret sit in the shade of a tree for me to help the boys pick the cotton.

In 1948 Margaret would have been six years old in December. They wouldn't let her go to school but found out that in order to keep a teacher they would have to let some of the children that had late year birthdays start school. They called us and she started 3 days late but made up her grades and skipped a grade in 6th grade. She was involved in lots of projects in High school. She was a maid of honor in her home economics teachers wedding. We moved into our new home in Wadesboro and Julian, Margaret, Ken, Cedy and Joan entered schools in Wadesboro. They had to ride the bus from our house to school. She made good grades and was a beautiful girl. After graduation she was only 16 and she went to work at a drug store. About this time she met John Tice from Lilesville NC and she dated him some and he enlisted in the navy and after orientation was sent to Guam. His mother was very ill with cancer and they let him come home to see her and Johnny dated Margaret some more and his mother liked her and asked her to look out for him and she promised. Well she died and everyone was sad after he went back to Guam. His assignment changed from Guam to Hawaii and he asked Margaret to marry him and after some time she said yes. Cecil helped her get a car but Cecil wanted her to go to business school in Charlotte. She stopped going as she had some good teachers in high school. In Charlotte she said she knew more then the teachers so she left the school. We wanted to get her a nice wedding dress but she told us for me to make her a dress and give her the money so she could go to Hawaii. So, I made her a beautiful ice blue brocade satin dress got her shoes to match and she got to Hawaii in January of 1961, married I think January 12th. She had learned to cook at home as she helped me for I was working and John had 2 buddies that were married and the 6 of them ate together and she did all the cooking as the other wives couldn't cook. In June 1961 Charles graduated from Annapolis and he came home saved his money and took a trip to see her before going to Penn State in the fall. Well John finished his tour of duty and they came back and stayed in California and John enrolled in college. Margaret worked and helped him get there. She got pregnant in January of 1966 and her daughter was born in October of 1966. I went out to help her as she had done so much for her sisters and brothers. Margie and Charles helped take care of the children for me to work. John went into real estate courses out there too and liked it.

They had an offer to buy into Century 21 real estate and they sold everything out there and moved back to North Carolina but she had a son born 1973 he was small then but they all did well in Charlotte. They had the franchise for North and South Carolina. They worked hard and when they sold it in 1986 it sold for 6 million dollars. They separated and she got her part and did a lot of investing her money. John and Margaret separated in 1986 and he remarried - as this lady saw he had money and he was lonely. Margaret has never remarried; her children are grown doing well both Robin and Jeff. Robin married in 1988 and has 2 children named Leslie and Andrew. Jeff is going to get married soon-he is finishing his college and working too. Robin went back to school and has a degree in the legal field. We are proud of all the things my grandchildren and great grandchildren are doing.

In 1965, we moved to Charlotte-Cecil couldn't get work in Wadesboro. He got a job with DB Rogers construction and worked there 2 or 3 years. We were living on Winter Street and I went to work at Memorial Hospital as a nurse assistant. I really enjoyed the work and I felt like I had found my calling. It was there the CPCC students were training for Licensed Practical Nurses; the instructors noticed me with the patients and encouraged me to get into the program. Well I did and graduated in 1968 and went into nursing full time It has been a wonderful experience. Margaret came home when Robie was born in October 1966 and they came home for Christmas. Robie was so sweet we got to be with her as a baby for a month or two. Then in 1967 Charles was about to go overseas to Vietnam war and she stayed with us and him for a good while before he left. Margaret and Charles have a strong bond between them. When John and Margaret got divorced Ris told me his heart ached for her as he had seen so much in his law practice with people going thru divorce - Margaret always brought me nice presents all her life. I have a lot of them still. When she came back to Charlotte in 1976 with Century 21 Real estate they bought a house and in 1977 they went to Hawaii for the Century 21 annual convention they did well and made good. In 1984 they went to Japan for another convention for Century 21. She brought back silk cloth, pretty beads, necklaces and lots of other things in for me. I still have those things in 1999. She was the reason I got on some Vitamins to help me. I probably would be dead if she hadn't helped me with my health problems. She was able to take me many times to doctors and tests and x-rays, she was so good to me when I had to have eye surgery and took me to see our old pastor from Wadesboro that was in a nursing home in Fayetteville. The pastor that my children loved as he was so real not like a lot of preachers today, he died shortly after she took me to see him. She has been a wonderful daughter to me and her Daddy. I thank God for all she did when I had to go to work. She was a mother and Charles was a father to my little ones I bought her a beautiful white dress for the prom the year she graduated from high school with all she had to do at home she still made good grades I pray Gods richest blessings on Margaret and Charles. Well all my children, but those two had so much responsibility all the years growing up they really loved their little sisters and brothers. She can travel any where she wants to now, and I'm so glad for her. She gave me and Cecil a 25th wedding party and all came that could. I have so many good memories of the children growing up.

### **The Story of Grady Kenneth Ackerman**

In 1944, the last of December I realized I was pregnant. My fifth child was on the way. We named him for Grandma Ackerman's father and a friend next door. Her husband was in the war



and she didn't know when he would come back and they didn't have any children so I named him for her husband. In 1945 Cecil bought him a new crib and bought me a pressure cooker and I canned a lot that summer. I saw a good doctor-his name was Dr. Summerlin. Ken was born on September 28, 1945, 6:30 am. Ridsen started to school that year and my father gave us a farm in Morven N.C. 40 acres - 35 in peach trees 5 in timber. Cecil cut enough timber to build us a house. We moved from Laurinburg, NC Jan 1, 1946. We lost a dish cabinet off the truck that was moving us. We didn't have a car so we all had to ride in the drivers seat. Me and 5 children. We don't know how the cabinet fell off the truck I was upset about the dish cabinet as I had always wanted one. It had glass doors, it was pretty. When we went to see my folks in December of 1945 we rode on a train-I had never rode on a train. We stayed about 3 days and it was so good. When we moved to Morven as it was 9 miles from Wadesboro for the summer of 1946 we went to see DW and Wylatta and my sister Mollie and Baxter went with us and we had a good time. Grandpa Ackerman took us to a place on the black river and we fried fish and corn bread. Baxter picked a guitar and we sat on the banks of the river and sang a lot. Some people heard us and came down and joined us.

In August of 1946 I had weaned my baby boy Ken as I was breast feeding him when he got real sick and the doctor said he had to have surgery that he had locked bowels. Well they told me that if he lived it would be a miracle, and he wouldn't take a bottle I told the Dr. that I had just weaned him the Dr. told me to give it back to him and my milk came back and I let him nurse until February of 1947. We were lucky when Cecil got the house almost finished he was friends with the Littles. They owned a hardware store and they helped us get sinks and a tub for bathroom and kitchen. We had a well drilled for water and that was the first bathroom we had ever had in all our moving from place to place. We all settled down but something happened while Cecil was building the house I walked from where we lived at the Meachum place and one day at that time Cecil had picked up a used car and told be to get in and drive it. I didn't know any thing about a car so he got it started and put the children in and told me to go. Well I didn't stop at the stop sign and when I got near the house drive way I saw a truck coming and I whipped across the road and lost control I rolled over a shrub and a stump ruined a tire and hit a tree. I could have been killed, and my children too. I have so much to thank God for protecting me and the children all these years. We had all the children to read the bible and sing lots of gospel songs and we took the children to a lot of singing conventions. We went 4 or 5 times to Peter's Creek Baptist church where Grandma Ackerman raised her children and we were always treated real good. We sang a lot of requests. As we had been singing these songs and they asked for some of the ones they had heard us sing. We took the Kelly sisters with us several times they had beautiful voices - my brother laid the cement blocks for us on our first home we lived there from 1947 to 1957. We moved to Wadesboro into a split level house where Julian, Margaret and Ken and Cedy graduated from High school. Charles was at Annapolis Maryland Naval Academy and Ridsen had joined the Navy.

In August 1946, Cecil had raised a lot of vegetables, corn & cotton that summer. He planted sugar cane. He also planted a field of Kentucky string beans and he couldn't sell them as meat was rationed and people didn't want them with out meat to season them with. Grandma Ackerman came up to stay with the children as I stayed with the baby. I believe Margaret was upset because she was too young to realize how sick the baby was.

Ken, after he got over the surgery, didn't have too much trouble until about 1951 he got sick after eating cantaloupe. Cecil had bought them in Laurinburg and Ken got so sick the doctor said he had done all he could. My neighbor Mrs Watts made some chicken soup and she came over and got him to eat it and he started getting better until now he didn't eat much cantaloupe but he is eating a little now. He started school in Morven in 1951 and he made good grades. At his time I was having trouble getting somebody to keep the children. When he was about 9 or 10 years old he would stay with the children some as each one would stay a day a week to help me and I gave them two dollars a day as that was what I had to pay to other people. The Lord was watching over the children, Margaret and Charles tried to keep watch for the little ones. It's the mercy of God that something didn't happen to them. I feel like Charles and Margaret took the place of Mama and Daddy. They did a good job but it might have been too hard on Margaret. She maybe felt like we were putting too much on her. I'm sorry if that was the way she felt; I had to take responsibility when an older brother got killed Mama was in shock two years and me and Daddy took care of my brothers and sisters. I never thought one time of hurting my sisters and brothers. There is so much mean things going on today of mistreatment of children-it wasn't then.

1955 - Ken got sick from eating cantaloupe and he almost died from that - Mrs Watts our neighbor made some chicken broth a little rice and that started him to get better. The druggist told Cecil he had given all they knew but he survived and has always been easy going and good to his parents. He spent 3 years in California with Margaret and Johnny. He went to college out there and come back to home in Charlotte. In 1965 we had moved to Charlotte as Cecil couldn't get work in Wadesboro.

In the late 50's and 60's Cecil was building Tasty Freezes and that was real popular in that time. Jul and Ken helped Cecil build these for maybe 9 years. When Ken came back from California, he went to work for B.D.Rodgers in construction he came back in 1966 (January) and worked with his dad until he went in the Air Force in late 1966. In May 1966 he got married to Rita Ford. They were together when he was in training and she followed him to a lot of places he was stationed. Going back to 1960, Ken met a girl from Kerston SC and they dated until graduation from high school. She wanted to get married but Ken told her they were going to wait until they each had more education and in June 1963 we went out to California for a month. We drove Ken, me, Cedy, Joan, Rose - it took us from Friday morning until Monday night at 2 am. We got to San Jose it was very tiring and Ken and I would drive taking turns we stopped at Motels at night - we carried a lot of food. We stopped to have dinner at night. I was driving and on a long stretch of road and I didn't see this truck and he took to the shoulder of the road to keep from hitting me, and it scared Ken so much he wouldn't let me drive any more. That was alright with me but it was hard on him. While we were there Ris rented a car and trailer and Ris, Shirl, Margie, Mike, Mindy, Ken, Cedy, Joan, Rose and me went to Las Vegas - we were gone for a week, Cecil came out and drove us back in August 1963. Ken went back to San Jose to enroll in college but when we got back Ken found out the girl that wanted to marry him had married another man and was pregnant and Ken was so hurt as he had never been to bed with her he knew the baby wasn't his. He stayed 3 years out there had 2 years of college and when he enlisted in the Air Force he got a better rating. He married Rita in May 1966 and in October he left for boot camp. Rita stayed with us until he was settled in a place so she could go. When he served 4

years he came back and entered college at UNC Charlotte and got a BS degree in accounting and after he graduated from UNC he tried several accounting firm jobs but went with the IRS and he has been there and will retire in 2 years after 2000. He had 2 children one born 1974, August 13, a daughter, and a son born in 1979. His daughter is named Kimberly. His son, named Jason, was hit by a big truck he was on a bike and almost got killed. He was in the hospital for about 3 months. God gave me a miracle as the Doctor didn't think he would live. Prayers went up for him all over Charlotte and California. God spared his life. I thank God every day for his life being spared. He went back to school that fall after missing 3 months and the teachers said they'd let him try to be in an advanced class and he wanted to go into that that September, well he surprised every one-made good grades for his brain was as the doctors said, scrambled. God is so good to all of us. He is doing well in second year of college. Has met a girl he likes, Kim met a young man this last spring, it was love at first sight and they married August 22, 1998. She gave birth to Ken's first grandchild a boy named Austin Kenneth. Ken is very happy and the baby was born on my mother's birthday, another blessing for me. Well I know I have forgotten things, but Ken after his Daddy died he had done so much for me. Ken, Charles, Ris, Margie, Cedy, Joan, Rose, been so good to me Jul has helped he has been away a lot. Ken was so good to his father before he died in 1986. He (Ken) promised Cecil he would look out for me and help me. Charles, Ris and Ken promised their Daddy they would carry out his wishes and they have been so good to me. Ken was the one Cecil called when he got sick and was hospitalized-he was in ICU 60 days when he died. Margaret spent a lot of time with him taking tapes for him to listen to. He had his mind and could use his right hand but was totally paralyzed on the left side due to a doctor that ordered a test and my son Ridsen asked him why, the doctor knew he was in trouble and he and the other doctors decided to let him die as his had a good suit against them. Ken brought me vegetables as he plants a large garden. I freeze what I can't use at one time. I know I have forgotten a lot of things but maybe I'll remember some more.

### **The Story of Cecelia Elizabeth Ackerman**

In February of 1947 I realized I was going to have another baby. We had just moved into our really first home. There was a lot to do that year as Cecil decided he wanted to farm the land. He pulled the peach trees up and burned them in piles and when he found the land was so poor and sandy he gave up partly on farming. He found a job in Wadesboro working in a shop for Mr. Tom Little. He bought a used truck and it was a slow time, not much money for anything. He then tried to work at carpenter work for other contractors, and in time decided to work on his own. He built a lot of houses and about that time he started building tasty freezes and did well with that. The boys were getting old enough to help him. He taught them lots of things that has helped them over the years. I got a job at West Knitting but I didn't work there until my eighth child was born. Cedy got pneumonia and then had the childhood things like measles and chicken pox but we got the children vaccinated for childhood diseases. Cedy started school one year late as her birthday was November 10, and she had to stay back a year. I remember I got her some pretty dresses to wear to school. She had long black hair and it would hang in long curls. She did well in school, we went to church in Wadesboro and I helped with the childrens' programs. In 1950 I realized I was going to have another baby. On July 14, 1950, Joan Rebecca was born at home-a nine pound girl. She was a beautiful baby. In 1948 Grandpa Ackerman came to visit us and we took him back home. He had married a young girl after he divorced Grandma. They

lived in a small house and his wife's name was Pearl. She worked in the fields for other people and he saved the money. They had \$5,000 and after a few years a Christian lady told her she was living in adultery since Grandma Ackerman was a good Christian woman and Grandpa was the one doing wrong. Pearl told him she was leaving and he split that money between them. When she was at the bus station a crook saw her and could see she was confused and he told her he would take her where she wanted to go, and he got her in his car and when she was found she was on the steps at Dorothy Dix Hospital (mental) no money, or anything. Well they found out who she was and sent for her mother and Grandpa was in bad shape and he went to his son FB and gave FB his money and FB called Cecil to come and get him and while Cecil was bringing him to our house he lost his mind and tried to kill Cecil. The law came and took him to Anson County jail until they could get him in Dorothy Dix. Pearl's mother was up there so all three were there in 1950. He died June 26th, 1950. They found out that Pearl and her mother was so depleted in food that they started giving them a lot of good food and visits and Pearl and her mother got their minds back. They were released after Grandpa died. In 1950 June 26, Grandpa Ackerman died and Cecil took the boys to his funeral. I stayed with Mama with Margaret and Cedy as I was expecting any day for Joan to be born. The boys can remember going to the funeral. Well July 14, 1950, Joan Rebecca was born, a very pretty baby. Cedy was at home with a neighbor in another room and I know she could hear me in pain and after the baby was born the neighbor brought her into see me and she had gone out in the yard and found a tiny bottle and put one small flower in it and said to me, Mama, I brought you a flower, and it was the sweetest thing, and I've never forgotten it. My children all were very loving and Charles never went to school a day he didn't kiss me goodbye and tell me he loved me. We had a little black dog, his name was Blacky, it was Charles's and when Cecil would take us to Wadesboro the dog would follow and get to Mama's up in the day and was always wagging his tail. He got killed in 1951 while we were out of town and when Charles found out he buried the dog out at our barn and put flowers on his grave often.

In about 1954 Cedy started school and she did well she was a year behind as her birthday was too late in the year she was 6 in 1954.

In August 1952 I went to work at West Knitting my baby Sharon Rose was born on November 26 1952, we almost lost our house as Cecil didn't pay the money he borrowed to do the finishing work. He borrowed \$800 in 1946 and in May 1952 the man that loaned him the money foreclosed and put our house in the paper for sale. My last baby was 22 months old at that time. I was so upset we had a small radio and I could hear Oral Roberts on it so I wrote to him to pray for me and my children. Well I know he prayed for us, about a week after I wrote the letter Dr. Charles Allen owner of Anson County Hospital drove a big car in our yard and he talked to me and asked if I had canned lots of food. I told him yes and he had seen the notice in the paper and he told me to tell Cecil to come to the bank the next day and he would help him get the money to pay off as the interest had upped the amount from \$800 to \$4,000. So, Cecil did go to see him and he helped him borrow \$4,000 and told Cecil to come to his office on Saturday morning and he would do a vasectomy (1952) so I couldn't have any more children. Cecil did and the doctor didn't charge him for doing that. I went to West Knitting in July and got a job to help. I made .75¢ hr. sewing on underwear for men and boys (T-Shirts and briefs). At that time I had four boys and the girl that worked on the seconds table. I would pick me out the best and I could get

them cheap. So, from then on my boys had nice underwear and T-shirts. We were making colored shirts with a pleat in front with a collar and pocket. I sewed pockets and collars on those and I got yellow, blue, and white for my boys real cheap.

I made \$6.00 a day \$30.00 per week as time went on I worked real hard and could make more but if my machine broke down I'd lose my production. That's when I could cry as I had worked so hard to make over productions.

In 1953, there was a sales lady at BC Moore a department store that when they marked things down she would put some back for me until I came in. I bought Cedy and Margaret some pretty dresses. I made a lot for the girls and I made the boys top shirts too.

When Cedy got into high school, she was sponsored by the ball players to ride in the parade. In the fall she got that for four years until she graduated in 1966. In January 1966 she got mononucleosis and missed four weeks of school flat of her back. We had let her stay with Aunt Flossie and finish school in Wadesboro for we moved to Charlotte in December of 1965. She did her lessons and her Aunt Flossie would bring her lessons to take what she had finished back and she made her grade and when school was out the doctor took her tonsils out. June 1966 she was a beautiful girl and had lots of boy friends. When she got well from the surgery on her tonsils she got a job with Southern Bell telephone. She worked there until 1968 and got a job with Eastern Air Lines and worked there until they folded.

When Cedy started school and she got very sick with pneumonia. We had a good doctor named Dr. Burnett-he came out to our house and gave her penicillin shots one each day. He said she had double pneumonia and she was so sick I won't ever forget how good that doctor was to us. When she got sick Charles stayed out of school with her and he didn't know anything to do for her but give her aspirin. The doctor said she could have died but God spared her life. She went back to school and did well.

1957 She started school in Wadesboro as we moved to a new home in Wadesboro and she had lots of friends and we had a large basement room they would have parties in. She was very popular and pretty. She was chosen each year of high school to ride in the Christmas parade as a ball player sponsored her. I always got her a nice outfit for those times. When we moved to Charlotte in 1965 she was supposed to finish high school in 1966 she stayed with her aunt Flossie until school was out. She had to have her tonsil out as soon as school was out when she graduated. After she got well she went to work at Southern Bell Telephone until she got a job with Eastern Airlines in 1968. She worked there until they folded.

She met Larry Pool in December of 1969, and they got married in 1969. We moved back to our house in Wadesboro and she stayed in our house on Winter Street in Charlotte and Joan and Rose entered school in Charlotte in 1965 (November) when we went back to Wadesboro in 1968 I had been able to go to nursing school at CPCC and passed the state board and was licensed LPN. Cedy and Larry bought a house on Rama Road and in 1973 Robert was born. I won't ever forget the things I did with Kim and Jason and Robert and Stacey that was before and after Cecil's death and it really helped me. I had quit work when Cecil got sick and he had to take radiation

therapy and I took him to get his treatments and cooked foods that he could eat. Patients on treatments lose their appetites and won't eat but I made him foods and he ate them. We all were together for Charles 60th birthday on August 29th 1998 we all had such a good time as it was a surprise to him. He had three brothers and three sisters and all their families I had four sons and three daughters for that occasion.

In 1998 Cedy got passes for Robert, Crystal, Brittany, Joan, for Charles' birthday. Ris came from California, Margaret, Jeff, Carrie, Roby, Mark, Leslie, Andrew, Julian, Ken, Rita, Jason, Kim and Bo. Kim and Bo got married Aug. 22 while on their honeymoon, they came to the birthday party. Charles had a lot of friends and people he had worked with from all over the country. Since August 29, 1998, Cedy had a new born baby named Cassey Alexia born June 29, 1999, I know I have forgotten a lot.

Cedy had been working at Eastern for a long time. She had taken lots of trips to Japan, South America, San Jose, California to visit Riden and she got passes and we went out there a lot to see Ris daughter's wedding in 1982 and lots of other times-Mindy and Mike's graduation and to Charles' house and we couldn't have done all that without her getting us passes. She got me and Joan a pass to the Virgin Island in 1984. She helped me a lot when I was in nursing school. She gave me a mother's ring for Mother's Day that year 1968. I'm still wearing it. In 1979 they had built a new home and Stacy Elizabeth was born that year (1979)-Robert started school I wasn't working at that time, I stayed with the children after school with Rob and Stacy and Kim and Jason as their mothers worked. I was driving and could do this. All these children had childhood diseases but all came through.

When Eastern folded, Cedy was very upset. Eastern and the unemployment office offered some of the people to go to CPCC and take computer courses and Cedy did and she got some part-time work and how she is doing well with computer work at US Air at the airport. She has put Robert through college and he has a good job now and Stacy is in college this year and doing well (1998). Larry works for different company's and they have been in this home for almost 20 years.

### **The Story of Joan Rebecca Ackerman**

We were living in Morven in 1950, we had been there since 1946 (January). When my father gave us a farm we rented a house and land so Cecil could work on our house and have some income from produce that we could make off the rental farm. Well I realized in October 1949 I was going to have another baby. I had six children already but I believe that God had a reason for me to have these children. I had many trials and tests all those years but when God plans anything it has to be. Dr. Carter had delivered Cecilia and he moved to Wadesboro and a new doctor was in Morven-Dr. Burnett. Well I saw him and he delivered my baby July 14, 1950. If I had a problem I'd send a urine specimen to the doctor and if I needed medicine he would let me know. I got along well and I worked hard and canned a lot of vegetables that summer. Cecil was working on his own doing contracting for houses and Tasty Freezes. Back then we didn't have any kind of insurance-we had to pay our bills and Dr. Burnett charged \$50.00 to deliver the baby. She was beautiful baby and when we went to see my mama she would snuggle her little head on

Mama's neck and chest. Mama loved that as she always loved the children no matter how many we had. I remember when Joan was a baby I didn't have any Pet milk (that was what I made her formula) and I didn't know what to do. I kept saying, "Oh Lord, what will I do", as Cecil was at work and I had a feeling to look under the cabinets again and I did and there was a can of milk I thanked God as I knew he had provided that can of milk. Well we were still driving to Wadesboro to church and I'd cook and take our food to Mama's and we would eat with her as she wasn't able to get out along then. Ann and Bill would come over and eat too. There was always enough for all-we stayed over for night service and sometimes Cecil would stop at a little diner called the curve-in and they served corn dogs and Cecil would get the children one. It was their treat for several weeks. We were happy to be together.

We were driving back and forth every Sunday and one Sunday night we thought all the children were in the car but when we got home we had a call saying Ken was left behind asleep and Cecil had to go back and get him. We didn't have much sickness with the children only occasional Charles had ear aches and I would heat salt in a cloth and put to his ears. It relieved that at times. Cecil cashed in the childrens' life insurance policies and bought something called seressa and planted about 15 acres hoping to have a good crop but it didn't pan out. The pines were growing and Cecil got a check from the government for planting those pines. The boys, Charles and Ris, in the summer picked peaches at a peach orchard between Lilesville and the Pee Dee River. They got small change for picking and at the end of the day a bushel of peaches each and I canned the peaches and in the winter I would open the peaches and have hot biscuits and butter for supper. We raised our pork and some chickens. We had a cow that a man let us keep in the winter as he couldn't afford to buy feed for the cow so, we got our milk for feeding the cow. I churned it at times and had homemade butter, we hated it so when he came and got the cow. Cecil was working at that time as his own boss he did pretty well not getting rich but able to buy groceries and some clothes for the children. Cecil's sister gave him some of her husband's clothes. Flossie gave the children some of Jr. and Alvin's clothes they had out grown. I made shirts and dresses - shirts for the boys and dresses for the three girls. It was in September of 1950 that Cecil thought it would save on gas if we moved to Wadesboro. The house had big rooms and was cold - I got sick up there and the children got sick too. Julian got sick and the doctor said he had to have surgery - appendicitis so Cecil had to buy him a pair of pajamas the only one that had pajamas. We stayed up there until March or April Mr. Byrd moved out and we moved back to our home in Morven. I had a vision the night Mr. Byrd moved out. I saw my Daddy standing by my bed. I was in the house Charles was born and Daddy was standing by my bed. He didn't speak and the next morning my mother called to tell me that we could move back home and we did (1951 March or April) I knew that my father was trying to tell me (April) that we could go back home. He gave us that lan for our lifetime and at our deaths to go to my body heirs. We stayed there until 1957.

In July 1951, Cecil was in a wreck going to work and his knee was fractured. The doctor had to wire his knee back together. He was unable to work for about four months. He went to Laurinburg and painted his brother's house inside and made a little money. When it was cotton picking time Charles, Ris and Julian picked our neighbors cotton and every week they bought their money and laid it in Cecil's lap. Charles tried to sell Christmas cards in Wadesboro and his profit he gave to his Daddy. He won a prize for his sales and it was a candle stick holder. It had

a rose made into the plastic; he gave it to me and I still have it as he worked hard for it and I treasure it. I found out in June 1951 I was pregnant with another baby.

Well Cecil finally was able to work again and he got a job working for the Littles'. He worked for them a little while then he decided to contract houses and he made enough to live on. In the mean time he had some material left over from the jobs and bought a lot just off Salisbury Street in Wadesboro and the boys were getting large enough to help. Cecil and the boys, started building a small four room house to rent. He finished the little house and rented it and I'm still getting a small amount of rent each month. The girl that rents it was a neighbor when I was about seven or eight years old. Her mother had six children and went to a doctor to try and get an abortion. He cut an artery and she died and left those little ones. My Mama let her wear a coat of mine to her mother's funeral and Mama would have these children come to our house and she fed them everyday until their Daddy married a woman that helped raise the children. She and her family have always loved my Mama and me. They went to my Mama's funeral. Well in 1950 Grandpa Ackerman died fourteen days before Joan was born June 26, 1952. Cecil took the four boys. I stayed with Mama. Cedy and Margaret stayed with me. Grandma Ackerman lived until 1971. She got cancer and had surgery in 1966 but it came back and she didn't live long that time. Grandma Ackerman came and spent one week or two with us often. I made her some dresses and fixed a bra for her after her breast was removed. She always treated me good and told me many times how proud she was of me for keeping my babies so clean and smelling so sweet. I had so much more than she had raising her children although I didn't have as much as the people have today. Joan started school in 1956 and was such a pretty girl she was left handed - only one in either of our families that had that. She learned ok and graduated in 1968 from high school the same year I graduated from nursing school. She helped me with gas as I couldn't work but three days every other week and I'll never forget her for helping me. Ken was overseas and Charles and Ris were away. Ris was in law school the same time I was in school. Charles was in the war in Vietnam. Cedy gave me my mother's ring for Mother's Day in 1968 before I graduated from nursing school. Cecil got sick with Hong Kong flu and wanted to move back to Wadesboro. In 1968, we did-I didn't make very much money. They started me at \$2.30 per hour after I got out of nursing school I didn't make much when I tried to retire I was only making \$4.46 per hour in 1977. When Joan graduated from high school she went to work in the mailroom at Memorial Hospital in 1968. In 1971 she went to work at Presbyterian Hospital and has been there until now. she has never been married and seems to be reasonably satisfied. This is 1999. Joan was in high school at the time I was in nursing school 1967-1968. She graduated in May 1968. I graduated from nursing school on September 13, 1968 and went to state board in October 1968 and made a good grade on my test for nursing. I graduated 4th highest in my nursing class. I was 47 years old when I graduated from nursing school. Joan had a bad wreck and her back was hurt really bad. The man that hit her in the back wasn't paying attention and his insurance had to pay, but the doctor never helped her back. A year later she went to another Chiropractor and he helped her and she has never had anymore back pain, the doctor that pretended to work on her back billed the insurance company \$6,000.00 dollars. While she was in high school she was a member of a group call Sing Out America and they went all over the country singing - she really enjoyed that. She has never married but she enjoys the babies where she works. She works in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. They have lots of babies, (preemies) they have four doctors daily in the unit. She really looks after those babies. When she is off on her days off, when she



goes back and checks every chart to make sure the doctors' orders are accurate. The doctors depend on her to make sure everything is right. They can take care of up to forty-five babies. It will not be long until she can retire if she wants to. Her health is good and they will probably let her work as long as she can.

In 1956, Charles was graduating from high school and they had to select mascots. Joan was selected for the girl, and Jerry Livingston for the boy. My sister made Joan a beautiful white dotted swiss dress and she was so pretty. I made Rose a green dotted swiss dress too as they always felt bad if I didn't make them clothes together.

In 1957, I had to have surgery and my sister Mollie made the girls dresses for Easter for me. They were so pretty. It was always hard to do things for Rose as she was very particular about what she wore.

I was working and Mama kept Rose for me and Joe for Ann until they started school. Charles was at Annapolis Naval Academy. Ris had enlisted in the navy and that Easter he sent Rose a large Easter bunny.

In 1965 we moved to Charlotte as Cecil got a job there and Joan and Rose had to move to Charlotte and they finally adjusted to school and that is where Joan and Rose graduated. Joan went to work at Charlotte Memorial Hospital in the mail room. She stayed there until she went to Presbyterian Hospital and is still there.

### **The Story of Sharon Rose Ackerman**

In 1952, I go back to (June 1951) when she was conceived. In March 26, 1952, she was borne on Grandma Ackerman birthday 1952. But in June of 1951 Cecil was in a wreck and his knee was fractured and the doctor wired it back together. That was a bad time I had just found out I was going to have another baby. It was a long time of therapy and worry until he could go back to work.

She (my eighth child - Rose) was born around 2:30 March 26th and I couldn't have her. The doctor had to use forceps as she was so big. She weighed 11 lb 7 oz the largest girl baby born at Anson County Hospital-the only one of my children born in hospital. The doctor told my Mama if I hadn't been in the hospital me and the baby would have died. I named her out of the Bible Sharon Rose the nurse that filled out her birth form said that was the prettiest name she ever saw. She was a beautiful baby and we went home in three days. I had all my other babies at home. Cecil had gone down to his brothers house the day before she was born and got dewberry plants and Charles, Ris, Julian were setting them out the day I came home from hospital. The dew berries didn't do any good. Cecil was in construction for himself and was doing pretty good he had the money to pay my hospital bill and doctor. Charles collected the other children's milk money and bought me some candy and gum. He was the only one that could come in to see the baby. I can remember how gentle he touched her hand. They all loved the baby. The doctor told me she was going to fix me so I couldn't have anymore children. Dr. Allen came to our house and told me to tell Cecil to come to his office on Saturday morning and he did a vasectomy and

helped Cecil borrow the money to pay off the debt on our house. Charles was fourteen years old that August and all the children needed school clothes so I went to West Knitting and they gave me a job. I started at .75¢ per hour. I really worked hard to make production and soon got up to \$1.00 an hour. Charles went with me to get the job and we came back by Belks and I put the boys all wrangler jeans on layaway and I got them out for school that year. The first thing I bought on layaway was a TV for them to have to look at when they finished their chores. They all really liked that. Old western movies with Gene Autry, Bill Hickocks, Bob Steele and others. I rode to work with Cecil. I got up at 4 a.m. made breakfast for the children and Cecil's lunch. He wouldn't eat sliced bread he had to have biscuits and egg, sausage and ham. Then I had to get ready to go to work. Sometimes I could catch a ride with a lady that worked there in the evening in the summer. I canned lots of vegetables and we raised our pork. We couldn't buy fryers so we raised them to be fryers and we dressed them and froze them. I had a very large freezer that we bought from Mr. Little at the hardware store. Rose had a very funny personality, she could be sweet but very stubborn and hard to manage. She was loved so much by Ris especially, he petted her all the time. I made her some pretty dresses but she could refuse them very quick. She was staying with my mother before she started to school and Ann's son Joe stayed too. They said quite a lot of things such as one day Mama was lying in the bed and she told Rose and Joe to pray for her. Well they dropped on their knees and Joe prayed, "Oh Lord help grandma, she is sick," and Rose said in a gruff voice, "Ill pray for you tomorrow grandma." Mama got a big kick out of telling us about this. Mama made them oatmeal for breakfast everyday. We picked her up after we got off work. The older children asked if they could stay with her (Rose) and Joan and I could give them what I had to give another person to keep them. They took turns one day a week then I got a lady close by to keep Rose after Joan started school.

In 1957 Cecil was working on a new split level house in Wadesboro. Charles left the 1st of July to go to Annapolis and Ris was charged with a driving charge and he enlisted in the Navy. He was seventeen. He was accused falsely and when Charles came home for Christmas holidays he went to the judge's home and told him he was driving the car that this police man in Morven charged Ris with but I believe that was one reason he went into law. He was accused falsely the judge told Charles there wasn't anything he could do. That policeman arrested Ris on his graduation day and shoved him up against a brick wall and told him he wouldn't say his speech at graduation. Cecil rushed to the jail and got him out and he did his speech as salutetorium. He made it anyway. We were so proud off all our children. We moved to Wadesboro in 1957. Rose started school that year (1958) and she adjusted well. She always made good grades. When we had to go out of town we had a good lady named Hazel Bennett to care for them. Her husband worked in construction with Cecil. His name was Robert and all my children loved them both. The 1st year Ris was in the navy he sent Rose a big beautiful rabbit for Easter. My sister made Rose and Joan Easter dresses. I had been sick that year. In 1965 Cecil got a job in Charlotte and we moved up there. Joan and Rose had to change schools but they adjusted and did well. Rose was selected to be in a beauty pageant and she made 3rd place. She was beautiful. She graduated from high school 1971 and was offered a scholarship to North Carolina University on a engineering program but she didn't want to go she has a strong willed but she met Steve Honeycutt and married him in 1972. She got pregnant and had sons and daughters. She now has six boys and two girls. Her eldest son Steve the next son Josh and son Aaron all are in college. Steve the oldest will graduate this year. He married last fall. She had been for five

years having migraine headaches but the doctor has found a new medicine and it seems to be helping hopefully it will. This is March 1999.

### **The Story of Elizabeth Coley Ackerman**

In 1861 a son was born to John Coley living in Cabarras County a small town of Mooresville, NC. John Coley had two brothers and all three signed up for duty in the army. John got wounded in the leg, he had to have it amputated and that was just before my father Jessie McKnight was born. My father only remembers him unable to work but he learned to make shoes and repair shoes and his income was very low. My father remembered when the soldiers (Civil War) came to their house, they took the only mule they had, split the mattress and took their meat from the smoke house. My father was about six years old. My father's name was Jessie McKnight Coley and when he was about nine years old there was a wealthy widow, a school teacher, asked my grandfather to let Daddy stay with her to do her chores and she paid my grandfather \$1.50 a month and she was good to my father and she taught him his schooling. She must have given my father violin lessons for he could play the violin so pretty. My father worked for her until he was 19 years old and he asked is father to let him have \$1.50 the last month he stayed with her so he could get married. Well he got married and had eight children and they all worked on the farm. Daddy bought land and Daddy did very well he bought land and he owned the land that Cannon Mills was built on. He sold it to Jim Cannon in Kanaopolis, NC and Cannon Mills is still there today. He told me he bought the land with .05¢ cotton they raised a lot of cotton and Cannon Mills used cotton to make the sheets, towels and lot of other things. He had five sons and three daughters one daughter died when she was 15 years old. She made the dress she was buried in.

Daddy saved his money and the Lord blessed everything he touched. One reason God Blessed him so much he took care of his father when he was young. He bought property in Concord, NC and he owned a bottling plant that made cakes and other drinks. He gave each one of his children a home to live in. In early 1900 he had a friend and they went to Texas and they worked the rice fields out there. He saved his money and left his wife to collect the rents and save it and when he got back from Texas, with all he made out there he found his wife had been living with a man and she was addicted to morphine and he told her they would divide all the property they had after he had given the children a home and he took his part and came to Anson County, NC and bought nine houses with his part of the money. He met Mama and Mama was working in the silk mill to keep her the two younger brothers and her father. She took care of 2 sisters and they died and her father died and she was still taking care of her brothers.

My mother was born in 1892 to John Trexler. Mother was Mollie Moore Trexler. She had brothers and sisters but she had to go to work when she was about eight years old in a silk mill that had come to Anson County from up north - labor in the south was very cheap and she worked until the 12 years old labor law was passed and she had to quit for a long time but at age 12 she went back to work. Her brother's names were Mose, Johnny, Clyde and Ellis. Her sister's names are Charlotte, Callie, Lena and Ginnie she had twin brothers that died when she was about five years old. They lived in a house across the road from where I was born. The houses at that time belonged to the silk mill. Mama had two younger brothers. Her mother died

with Typhoid fever when Mama was about 5 or 6. They paid \$1.50 a month for wages in the mill. Before my grandfather John Trexler moved to Wadesboro he owned a farm out from Wadesboro and it got so they couldn't make much and they moved so Wadesboro. The house they were living in when her mother died was on Wheeler Street close to where her father built the house I was born in. A lot of people worked in the silk mill until little cotton mill, Wade Manufacturing and West Knitting Mill came into business. When Mama was 12 years old she went back to work in the silk mill and worked until she married Daddy. Mama's father bought a sewing machine and when Mama wasn't working in the mill she sewed for people. She made some beautiful clothes, dresses and suits. She had a suit she had made when I was a small girl and it was so beautiful Mama sewed for people and picked up extra money she sewed for a neighbor-made her dresses and her sons shirts in exchange for the man to cut my brothers hair (Mack and Doug). She made all the dresses this friend Mrs. Bessie Shaver wore.

In 1916 Mama had to wear shoes to work in rain and snow and a lot the time the bottom came loose and she had to tie that soles to the shoe with rags. She had a hard time but she was still the sweetest kind hearted person I have ever known. When people were sick she went and cleaned their beds and always was sending food to them. I was the one that carried it when I got old enough. She sent food to the preacher at that time because they didn't get much salary.

(Mama's notes when she was writing this)

My children Charles, Risdan, Julian, Margaret, Ken, Joan, Cedy and Rose.

My natural grandchildren Mike, Mindy, Carla, Marti Chuckie, Judy, Scott, Joey, Angelina, Robie, Jeff, Kimberly, Jason, Robert, Stacy, Steven, Josh, Aaron, Jessica, Andrew, Wesley, Casey, and Katie.

My natural great grandchildren Becky, Katie, Ryan, Junior, Amanda, Megan, Crista, Jessica, Jennifer, Leslie, Angela, Joey, Leslie, Andrew, Austin, Brittany and Cassie.

(1918) Well at that time my Daddy had gone over to Rockingham, NC and he was operating a restaurant. He got Mama to fry pies and he sold them for her and gave her the money to help her. She had married to a young man named Jim Faulkner and she had a son named Joseph Julian. He (Jim) was born in 1912 and he told Mama he couldn't live with her because of his mother's nagging him about Mama and he joined the army and went to China. Joe was two years old when he (Jim) left her and she was taking care of her son and two brothers at that time. About 1915 there was a tent revival in Wadesboro and Mama get saved she had some wealthy friends and she got a goiter in her neck and they sent her to Charlotte to get it removed. She was still working to take care of her loved ones. Well one brother died and left one and he decided to get married and at that time Daddy asked her to marry him and she did in 1918 August. Joe started to school in September and he was so proud to have a Daddy he changed his name to Coley and went by that name until he died. So, Mama was living in the house where I was born and Charles was born in and her sisters and brothers wanted her to sell the house and Daddy bought it and gave her family their part. Daddy bought a house that was a boarding house at the depot that was used for people traveling by train and Mama went there to run it for Daddy. Daddy got a job at the VC plant where they made fertilizer and they lived at the depot for 2½ years and then moved

back into the home place and in May 25, 1921 I was born. They lived there and Daddy bought cows and started selling milk to stores in town. He had about 20 cows. He still bought houses. In 1927 there was terrible flu hit Anson County. He and I was the only ones in the community that was up. Daddy milked the cows and made butter milk and I would take two buckets and gave it to all the people that was sick. I made many trips daily giving that milk and at Christmas every one was better. (Go back to 1924) I was three years old and the neighbor had a little dog and it bit me. I showed it to Mama, my finger was bleeding. Well my Mama didn't know the dog was rabid and she was laying down with my brother Mack and the Lord spoke to her and said the dog that bit Elizabeth was mad and she thought she had a bad dream and it said the same words the second time and the third time. She jumped up and went to the barn where Daddy was milking cows and he rushed to try and find the dog, the dog had bitten two other people and the last one told Daddy they killed the dog and threw it in a field. Well Daddy found it and got it to the police station and they got to Raleigh, NC and the doctor called back that it was rabid and it was in the 8th day and I was in trouble. They told the doctor to give me two injections and the doctor did and stayed with my parents all night as they didn't know if it would do any good since it was nearing ninth day. Well I lived but I believe that was one of the causes I have always been very nervous. The doctor that stayed with them, delivered me, my brother Mac and my brother Douglas (1926). Mama named my #2 brother for that doctor the other two people took the rabies treatment 21 days that had been bitten.

The house I was born in 1921 my brother Mack was born 1922, my brother Doug in 1926 and my sister Mollie in 1928. In 1930 Daddy bought the house next door and my baby sister was born on November 30, 1930. It was the same year that the Linberg baby was kidnapped, I won't ever forget that awful time. We cried for days. In 1929 when the depression hit Anson county all the mills closed and it was awful. Daddy still had to sell milk and he let a lot of people have it and a lot never paid him but this one grandmother told Daddy if he would bring milk so the two grand babies could live and not die she would pay him when the mill started back. Well she did, she paid .25¢ a week until she got him paid and my father always said she was true Christian. It was about that time these people lived in one of Daddy's houses and the woman was expecting a baby, her husband tried to preach but he wouldn't pay his bills. They called the doctor to come help as the baby was coming and not one would come. Well the doctor that delivered my sister Mollie and Anne and delivered Charles, Ris, Julian and Margaret lived in Polkton, he was a county doctor but he was good but you had to go get him. People in the county used horse and buggy and he would go and if he had to he stayed all day or all night and people in the county would pay him with hams and chickens. But Daddy got somebody to go get him for this woman and the baby was so big she couldn't have it and he had to use forceps. It was so bad he was in the bed and pulling the baby he bent the bed rails and the baby died and I saw it in the little casket.

In 1928 Daddy was still selling milk-he made plain, chocolate ½ pints, 1 pint. He made 50 or 60 bottles a day. He delivered it to the stores in town and picked up the empty bottles and Mama made tubs of soapy water and I washed the bottles and rinsed them. I was about seven.

In June, 1930 Daddy bought the house next door and we moved in in June and my baby sister was born on November 30, 1930. That was the year that the Linburg baby was kidnapped and we all cried for days.

In 1931 the depression was about over and the mills started back up about that time. Daddy let me take music and my sisters and I were learning to sing together. As a man had borrowed some money from Daddy and he couldn't pay it back so he gave us his self playing piano. You could put rolls of songs and music in and peddle it and it played real pretty and we could play it the other way with our hands. Daddy let me take music but I had learned to play by ear and I messed up at times. Mama taught me some cords and she could play the organ and Daddy could play the violin real pretty. Before Mama and Daddy married he used to play the violin for square dancing. In 1932 my brother Joe married and they had a baby in June of 1933. A girl name Mary Helen Coley she was a pretty little girl. I was twelve years old at that time. His wife's name was Virginia. In August, 1934 my brother Joe got killed. He was 22 years old. His little girl was 14 months old. The two men that killed him was tried for manslaughter and was out of prison in two years.

In 1936 me and my sisters Ann and Mollie used to go to singing conventions and many churches to sing. I met a young man (not Cecil) and we eloped and got married. I was 15 years old and he was 17 years old. I had never been with a man. I was a virgin and I didn't know anything about sex so we didn't get along and I had something like appendicitis and while I was in the hospital my husband Frank went out and spent the night with another girl. And when Daddy found out about it he told him to leave and we got divorced on adultery grounds. I met Cecil in 1937 at a carnival and he asked to walk me home but a few weeks before that I was at church playing the piano and he saw me and told his cousin he was going to marry that girl and his cousin said to him her Daddy is wealthy and he won't let you marry her but he played up to Daddy and won Daddy over.

March 1937, I got a job at West Knitting Mill making underwear for men. I dated Cecil that spring and summer. He took me to meet his folks May 10, 1937 and he wouldn't let me out of his sight. On September 13, 1937 we got married and stayed with Mama and Daddy. He was working 3rd shift at Wade Mill. I was working 1st shift at West Knitting Mill. In November 1937 we moved into a house on Sikes Avenue. I found out I was pregnant, I was only 16 years old. Daddy want us to move in the house I was born in. We had bought some used furniture from Cecil's brother as he was working for a furniture store and he let us have some used stuff. A stove, cabinet and bedroom furniture. I had a living room suit and Mama gave us an iron bed and we thought we had it made. We didn't try to buy a lot of stuff like young people today do my grand daughter got married in August, 1998 and she had to have everything it's OK if you can afford it.

August 29, 1938 Charles Thomas was born in the same house I was born in I had him at home and Dr. Boyce delivered him. I had Cecil's Mama, my Mama and friends to help me. When Charles was born in three hours he started making a funny noise in his throat and Mama went to neighbor and she came and gave him something and in 30 minutes he was fine. In 1944 Cecil got the chance to buy us a car and we drove it to Wadesboro, we got to Mama's about four in the

morning and he asked my Daddy to let him have the money and Daddy did we went back to Wilmington. But my brother Doug enlisted in the navy he went over seas on a ship to Okinawa and was gone three years. When he came home he was shell shocked and the war really had hurt him. He was never the same, but he married and built a house across the street from Mama and Daddy. In 1944 my baby sister met Bill Porter. Bill was in the navy and they got married. She was thirteen years old and Bill was seventeen years old. We were at Wilmington as Cecil was working in the ship yard. Daddy was so hurt he wrote me to come home. I did and tried to comfort him and mamma. 1944 We had moved to Laurel Hill where Charles started to school in September. Well Cecil had got a job in Maxton, NC working on Gliders for the Air Force he got me a job there. Well Cecil sold our car to make a down payment on a house on Vance Street in Laurinburg. We moved there in November and Charles had to change schools I went with him to start in Laurel Hill and in Laurinburg. The children, 2 of the boys and Cecil got the mumps and about that time Cecil got a notice to go to Fayetteville, NC to be signed up for service well when he told the doctor about 4 little children at home and that he had got out of bed with mumps and the 2 older boys had them too, the doctor stamped rejected and told him to get back home and take care of his family. In January of 1945 I found out I was pregnant again. Well Daddy gave us the farm in Morven and we moved but Ken was born in 1945 September 28th and in January of 1946, we moved to Morven. Cecil rented a place for us to stay while he built our house in Morven. The Meachum Place had large acreage and Cecil got a share cropper to help with the work. Charles and Ris started school in Morven. Our neighbor drove the school bus, Hubert Watts, and he helped my children along then Cecil did well that year as the land he rented was very good and he raised a lot of vegetables and cotton and corn. The people share croppers did most of the work and in June my father died, but he had already given us the farm to build us a house on. My brother did the block work and Cecil had the timber from off the land to frame the house.

We had a very good Christian friend named John Shaver and he held meetings in the country and I played the organ or piano and we did the singing then we started going to church in Wadesboro. Cecil was doing better working in Wadesboro. One night we left the church and our son Ken was asleep on a bench and we got home and a friend called and Cecil had to go back and get him. In 1947 - we moved into our new house and I realized I was going to have another baby. We had a good Doctor in Morven and he took care of me. The baby was born November 10th, 1947 a black haired 9 pound girl. My second girl (Cedy), she was a beautiful girl with long curls. She grew up and started school but couldn't go at 6 years old since her birthday was November and they cut the month off in October, so she had to stay back. We had gardens, and Cecil was trying to farm but never made anything from that except we ate a lot of home grown vegetables and I canned a lot-we still went to church in Wadesboro. In 1928 my oldest brother (Mack) started school and he graduated in 1939. In 1940 he enlisted in the Army as war was coming and he was sent to Coral Gables Florida and he didn't have to go over seas but my brother Doug enlisted into the Navy and he did go over seas. He came back shell shocked as he was a gunner on a ship and was shooting for days with out much food or sleep at Okinawa. In 1941 Mac came home on leave and met Eloise Horne and they got married. She got pregnant and their first child was born in September of 1943 and now in 1945 they had twins, Johnny and Vivian. In 1932 we had an accident. My father heard something outside, he got up and loaded his shot gun-it was a Saturday night and on Sunday morning we were at the table having breakfast, Doug left the table

and saw the gun and he pulled the trigger and it knocked him in the floor. If the gun had been turned the other way he would have hit Mama, Joe and me, the Lord was taking care of us.

On December 7, 1941 on my fathers birthday the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor and my brother Doug went over seas. I sent him cookies and candy. When Doug came home he met Haitie Price and married her. They built a house across the road from Mama and Daddy, they lived there until he died in 1982.

Daddy still had cows and sold milk I remember when I started school I must have done okay as I was promoted every year. I remember my first spelling book Daddy would help me with the words. I don't remember too much of those years. I remember I got promoted every year and had 2 years of high school and then I eloped and ended my schooling. In 1965 We moved to Charlotte and I had the privilege to go to college and graduated as a nurse.

In 1942 Margaret was born a large baby and when she was 3 months old Cecil's sister Mary Lois died we went to the funeral in Fayetteville, NC. Then Cecil got a job in Wilmington in the shipyard making dry docks to go to sea and go up under the boats to repair them. We lived there over a year.

1944 We needed a car and Cecil got a used one for \$400. And we drove to Wadesboro and Daddy let him have the money it was about that time Daddy bought me a sewing machine and I made a lot of clothes for Charles, Ris, Julian and Margaret. In 1945 I made Margie a coat, leggings and cap so pretty. In 1944 my baby sister met a sailor, Bill Porter, and they eloped. She was 13; he was 17 and they are still married today.

We moved in 1944 to Laurel Hill as Cecil got a job at Maxton Air Base making gliders for the Air Force for the troops to be transported on the invasion at Normandy. Charles started school at Laurel Hill and in November Cecil sold our car to make a down payment on house in Laurinburg, NC as he was working at the Air Base and rode a bus. In December of that year. Cecil, Charles, Ris and Jul got the mumps and he got a notice to go to Fayetteville, NC to be tested to go into the service. He told the Doctor that was checking him and the doctor was mad and stamped rejected on his papers and told him to go home and take care of his family. Charles had to transfer to Laurinburg, NC. Well I went with him to Laurel Hill and I went with him in Laurinburg to get him started when we were in Laurel Hill some older boys were fighting him and Ris so he got Cecil's gun and Ris held the handle of the gun for Charles to shoot it, well it didn't cause any trouble, I bought Charles a leather jacket for school and Ris one too.

In 1945 my baby boy (Ken) was born on September 28 and Daddy gave us 40 acres of land in Morven. We moved into our new house with running water and a bathroom. We had a large wood heater in the middle of the house, later we had an oil furnace - Cedy was six months old and there was a revival at the church and Charles got saved and Cecil and I were baptized with Charles. I got sick as it was cold and it was a creek outside and I got a bad sore throat.



In 1950 Grandpa Ackerman died, Cecil took the 4 boys to the funeral at Roseboro NC. and Joan was born July 14, 1950. In 1952, March 26, Rose was born sharing her birthday with Grandma Ackerman. In July of 52 I went to work at West Knitting Mill. I worked there until 1959.

We moved to Charlotte., NC as Cecil was bankrupt and He got a job with BD Rodgers Construction. Ken came home in 1966 and worked with his father until he went into the Air Force.

In 1967 I entered Nursing School, I was 46 years old. I got my GED and when I was 47, I graduated from nursing school.

1968 we moved back to Wadesboro and in 1970 we moved here to Indian Trail and have been here 29 years. My health is very well; I have lost the sight in my left eye but I'm able to cook and Margie pays a lady to clean for me one day a month. Charles pays my light bill and gives me money all along. Ris spends a lot on repairs and appliances. Ken does so much for me in every way and gives me money, when I need it. I thank God for my children and all they do for me. I'm very fortunate to have my children whom I love **Very Much**.

### **The Story of Cecil Ackerman**

Cecil Thomas Ackerman was born in 1911 (April 6) in Roesboro NC and grew up on a farm. He had 3 brothers and 4 sisters. They all worked on the farm until 1923. Grandma had a brother in law in Wadesboro, NC that was Supt. of Wade Mill and he had them to move to Wadesboro and gave them all jobs in the mill. Cecil and his dad stayed in Roseboro to work the farm so when they all came back they would have a years corn and other stuff. Cecil was about 12 years old and Grandpa would go into town and he was playing around with women. Cecil resented that. When Cecil was 15 years old he came to Rockingham where his oldest brother (FB) who was manager of a grocery store and he gave Cecil a job. About that time Cecil met a girl named Georgie and they got married but it didn't last long and Cecil left the east coast and went to New Orleans, LA and posed as a model .for an artist. After that he worked the docks in New Orleans, LA. After that he went to Alabama and was out there about 2 years then he went to Detroit, MI and worked as a chef at a big hotel. He learned to cook and he stayed there about 2 years. His brother FB was living in Wadesboro, NC with a furniture store Cecil came to live with him about 1935 and he got a job at Wade Mill in Wadesboro, NC. In 1937 April, I met him and on September 13, 1937 we got married.

In 1934 Cecil went home to Roseboro NC and while there he told me a cat bit him on the hand and the cat was rabid. His mother took him to church and they all prayed for him and the Lord healed his hand. About that time his sister Lossie was having a bad time as she had 6 children and her husband wouldn't work and they were starving. Cecil told her he would rent some land so they could raise food to eat. Well when the garden was yielding good her husband came around to eat and Cecil told her to run him off but she got mad at Cecil and he left them. Well she had 3 more children and things was so bad at home she left her children as the oldest ones were old enough to take care of the younger ones. She stayed at our house a long time and got a divorce from her husband and in the mean time another man liked her and told her he would build her a house but she couldn't take her children. She married and had a son by him and she

couldn't get along with him (husband) so she left him and got a job at the children's orphanage in Winston Salem NC. His (Cecil) older sister Mae didn't have any children and her husband divorced her about the time their baby sister died and left two little boys. Her name was Mary Lois Carter and the boys' names were Gene Carter and Earl Carter. She left a letter to her sister Mae to take them and raise them and she did. She bought a house on Vance street, the same street we were living on and she worked at a grocery. Grandma Ackerman came to live with her and take care of the boys while she worked Festus, Flossie, Rossie and Mae all had there homes and children.

In 1941 Grandpa Ackerman married again, Grandma lived with FB, Erbert and Mae. Grandma Ackerman got breast cancer and in 1966 was operated on and she came to our house often. I made her some clothes all along. She got sick again in 1971 and died.

In 1970 Festus died. Grandma died in 1971. Mary Lois died in 1943. Mae died around 1992 Lossie died around 1995. Erbert died May 25, 1986 and Cecil died September 6, 1986. DW died in 1987. Flossie is still living she is blind and in a nursing home at this time. DW lived in Roseboro, NC. Festus lived in Lauringburg. Mae lived in Lauringburg, NC. Lossie lived in Fayetteville, NC. Mary Lois lived in Roseboro, NC. Erbert lived in Laurinburg, NC.

Mae married again to Pete Currie-they had three children, twins boys and one girl. Festus had four children, three by his first wife and one by his second wife. DW married his childhood sweetheart named Wylata. Erbert married a girl named Louise Currie. Mary Lois was married to Harry Carter. Lossie married Hubbard Beard and Dolf Beard. Flossie married Roscoe Butler and had two sons Junior and Alvin Ray. Erbert had a daughter named Doris Ackerman. She has never married. She is a school teacher. DW had three children name Kenneth, Jane and Dale.

Cecil told me he spent several years away from his family and I met him in 1937 and I've told all since we met in other pages.

### Houses Where We Lived

- 1) 1937 November House on Sikes Avenue, no water or bathroom
- 2) 1938 January House beside Mamma, no water or bathroom
- 3) 1939 February House on West Avenue, no water or toilet
- 4) 1939 July House on Sikes Avenue, no water or bath
- 5) 1940 July House in Fayetteville, no water or bath
- 6) 1940 September House in Fayetteville, side of Aunt Georgie, no water or bath
- 7) 1940 September House in the field close to Mary Lois, no water or bath
- 8) 1941 January House in Fayetteville, pump no toilet
- 9) 1942 February House in Lumberton, water and bath
- 10) 1942 April House in Lumberton, water and bath
- 11) 1942 May House in field in Creedmore, no water or bath
- 12) 1942 June House in field in Maxton, no water or bath
- 13) 1942 September House at White Lake, no water or bath
- 14) 1942 October House Sally Edwards, no water or toilet

- 15) 1942 November House in field close to brother John Shaver, water and toilet
- 16) 1943 June To filling station Wilmington, pump toilet outside
- 17) 1943 November House at Maffitt Village, we had water and a toilet
- 18) 1944 June In house with Doug and Hattie, no water and outside toilet
- 19) 1944 August House in Laurel Hill, pump and outside toilet
- 20) 1944 November House on Vance Street Laurinburg, water and toilet
- 21) 1946 January House at Meachum Place, pump and outside toilet
- 22) 1947 January Our new house, water and bath
- 23) 1957 October Our house in Wadesboro, water and bath
- 24) 1965 November House on Winter Street, water and bath
- 25) 1968 November House in Wadesboro, water and bath
- 26) 1970 August In this trailer, water and bath

### More Details

- 1937 The house was large, we only used three rooms, kitchen across the hall, bedroom, living room together and small bedroom
- 1938 House beside mama we had living room and this side of hall a bedroom suit and another bedroom on same side of hall and kitchen
- 1939 February House on West Avenue - living room, one bedroom and kitchen
- 1939 House on Sikes Avenue a bedroom, hall, three rooms and other side of hall living room bedroom, kitchen
- 1940 July - House in Fayetteville a little four room house
- 1940 September - House two rooms kitchen, bedroom, outside toilet
- 1941 January - House two room we slept in one big room, one kitchen
- 1941 May - House with four rooms, living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen pump
- 1942 House in Lumberton three rooms, two bedrooms, kitchen
- 1942 April House in Creedmore, one bedroom, two beds, kitchen, wood stove had two men sleeping on one bed, me and Cecil and 3 babies on one bed and in crib
- 1942 House in field Maxton, one bedroom, kitchen, outside toilet
- 1942 September House at White Lake, bedroom, kitchen
- 1942 October two rooms, Sally Edwards Wadesboro, one bedroom, kitchen
- 1942 November - House in field where Margaret was born four rooms, pump, outside toilet
- 1943 June - Wilmington filling station large front room, one bedroom, kitchen pump on back porch, outside toilet
- 1943 November - Government house at Maffitt Village, four small rooms, water and bath
- 1944 June -In house beside Mama, one bedroom, kitchen, outside toilet, no water, well water
- 1944 August - Four room house, pump outside, toilet
- 1944 November - House on Vance Street, Laurinburg, four rooms, water and bath
- 1946 January - House Meachum Place, had pump, outside toilet
- 1947 Our new house in Morven, bath and water, six rooms, three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining room
- 1957 Our new house Wadesboro water and bath, living room, kitchen, dining room two baths
- 1965 House on Winter Street, Charlotte, three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining room, two baths

1968 Back home in Wadesboro, four bedrooms, living room, den, dining room, kitchen, dinette  
1970 This trailer I'm living in, been her almost 29 years  
About 1951 Mama forgot house on West Ave., Wadesboro