

Introduction to Elizabeth Mahler Diaries

In August, 1946, John and Elizabeth Mahler bought a remnant of the Perry farm just north of Montevallo and began to live there. In a period stretching over a number of years, they rebuilt the house and reclaimed, rebuilt, and repurposed the worn out farm. It was the Mahler family's home until the last surviving daughter, (also Elizabeth), gave the entire property to the City of Montevallo in 2013 for use by the citizens of Montevallo as Shoal Creek Park.

("Mahler Family: 20th -century Pioneers", Terry G Arnold Feb 28, 2015)

Four manuscript diary volumes (Volumes II-V), written by parent Elizabeth on lined school tablets and covering more than 10 months of early occupancy, were discovered in the house in 2016 by the Montevallo Historical Commission. A referenced additional volume (Volume I) has so far not been found. The handwriting and composition are those of the school teacher that Elizabeth had earlier been in Indiana. They are typically written daily in the evening, covering her recollection of the events of the day.

Almost as an aside the diaries provide a peephole into a long ago Montevallo community with names that survive to this day and names of families and individuals long gone. Names like Peddie and Calvin Bearden, George Nix, Bailey, Frost, Orr, Melton, Hicks, Rucker, Carlyle, Burgin, Brazier, McCulley, Bowden, Aucoin, Mayhan, and others.

The diaries provide glimpses of family and friends visitors to the pioneering effort, people from Illinois and Indiana, from the Mahler family and from the Datzman family as well as former neighbors from Fairfield or Birmingham.

The diaries give a mother's proud view of her three grown children:

- Johnnie, who is recently released from a two year Army enlistment, now enrolled at Auburn probably under the new GI bill but who spends weekends and vacations as a sometimes enthusiastic helper to his father John in the building and the farming.
- Janice, the outgoing one who often doesn't come home on the weekends because she has a date but who is an enthusiastic participant in all things in progress when she is at home.
- Betty, who comes every weekend and spends her time playing the piano, reading, and sewing clothes for herself, her mother and for Janice.

The diaries give a picture of husband John as capable, creative, and incredibly energetic, the senior partner in the enterprise of farm and home building, while she is clearly full partner in all ways, planning, construction and operation. Her respect for John is apparent as she recognizes his abilities and respects his leadership while always ready to offer help when she sees help is needed. In matters relating to crop raising and animal husbandry, she knows more than John because of her farm childhood in Indiana. For construction jobs like putting and painting porch columns or closet trim, or installing asbestos cement shingles, tamping posts, or piling and

burning brush she volunteers to help not because of any special expertise but because she sees help is needed. There is nowhere a questioning of John's decisions or leadership. There is everywhere and at all times the clear indication that her help for John flows freely from her identification as a partner wishing their joint enterprise to succeed.

The diaries make Elizabeth herself known to a reader today as only a personal diary can.

Each weekend the children normally come home and Elizabeth documents their routine arrivals and departures with numbing repetition. Likewise, each Saturday she normally writes that she and the children went to Mass, or tried to go to Mass. Elizabeth's children and her Catholic faith are clearly two of the largest things in her life and the repetition of routine children arrivals and departures and of Mass attendance serve to emphasize their importance for her.

Elizabeth works very hard. At the time of the diaries, she is 50 years old. In adulthood she has been a teacher and an urban homemaker, not a laborer. Nevertheless, the diaries tell of regular and sometimes very hard and unusual manual labor while she also keeps up with homemaker chores:

"April 14. Wednesday

Dad cleared all day today across the road. After I did up the dishes and put a chicken in the oven I went out to help him. It was 10 o'clock and I worked until 11:15 and then I came in ahead and finished up the dinner. After dinner I did up the dishes and went out and stayed until it was time to come in and do the chores We brought the cows in as we came home. It really shows up what we did. We cleared more than an acre I'm sure, but I hardly think it was quite two. I enjoyed it and wasn't too tired tonight.

Am going to hem my dress tonight. Am leaving all the hems down in my clothes to acquire the New Look. I'm way behind everyone else. Most of the time I look like a peasant around here with my 3 cornered scarf on my head. Since it is warmer I wrap it around and tie it in front."

- She has a very large garden, with all the attendant responsibilities for planting, cultivating, harvesting and canning.
- In piling and burning the debris from land clearing, she works alongside the men, or even alone.
- When the brush burning gets out of control she works along with her children, hired help and John to bring the fire back in control.
- She helps John in fence building and describes tamping posts in the dug holes.
- Though John normally milks, she steps in to milk for him when he is not available for this chore although she does say in her diary that the milking is only for an emergency.
- With John unavailable she wrings the dinner chicken's neck. The diary makes clear that when she does this for the first time, it represents a large precedent.
- She is responsible for the care of 100 chicks intended to be raised for meat and eggs. The diary records the deaths of the young chickens and by subtraction she keeps a

running tally of the remaining birds.

- She spends much time tramping through the woods looking for strayed livestock
- She works as a carpenter helper to John. She caulks and putties outside house trim and windows. Inside she helps with finish carpentry by painting and sanding.
- After John has trouble working alone shingling the house with asbestos cement shingles, she volunteers to help him and subsequently becomes half of a husband-wife siding installation team that installs all the housing for the house. She mentions that working with the asbestos cement shingles makes her itch. She records in her diary the shaking of the high scaffolding in the wind as they are installing the siding on the gables, the very highest part of the house siding.
- She stacks and brings in firewood.

In addition to the typical manual labor tasks listed above, she was always responsible for food preparation and serving and for keeping the house. Normal housekeeping is hard for they live in the house even as they continue working to finish it. The road is unpaved and she comments on how difficult dust from traffic makes housekeeping:

“April 28 Wednesday

I'm trying to clean up a little extra for Johnnie and Grace and their two children are coming sometime the first of next week. It is so dusty and so hard to clean up We have been here 21 months now and our things are still packed in boxes and our furniture is all upstairs.”

She records wide swings of mood.

On November 3: ***“Dad roughed in the kitchen sink today. Hurrah! Hurrah!. No one has any idea of what a luxury that is to me. I have water in the house now and I won't have to carry out the dirty water. I just finished taking a bath in it now. It is one of those deep sinks that hold the water.”***

But then on December 10 she says ***“I baked a big batch of cookies this morning, the first since we moved in here. I'm getting used to cooking with all my handicaps here. Sometimes I think we will never finish this place. It will take two more years of this living to do it at least, and maybe more.***

Dad worked on the floor in the bathroom and on the toilet. We now have a toilet in the house. After getting up during the night in rain, frost, and etc. and going out doors, that really is something. Maybe I will be a lady again after all.”

On December 22: ***“Johnnie painted the chimneys a second coat today. This house is really going to be something as far as I am concerned. Dad and I worked on siding and accomplished a lot. The day was warm and sunny.”***

On April 5 : ***“A Mr. Rucker was here today. He bought Carlyle's place. He came to see about the line fence between our places across the road. You know I wish someone would come along and want to buy this place. I'm down in the dumps tonight and so tired of living this way.”***

April 26 Monday ***“I set out tomatoes plants, pepper and sweet potatoes plants. Didn't count them but it was a lot and the ground was as hard as a rock. Felt like I didn't do a very good job but I don't like garden work. The garden is so big and there is so much Johnson grass in it, one doesn't know where to begin chopping. I'm down in the dumps tonight. Guess I worked too hard doing nothing.”***

Elizabeth Mahler didn't stay “down in the dumps”, and she and John went on to finish and take pride in the house which then furnished her whole family shelter for the rest of their lives.

The diaries below are as Elizabeth wrote them.
Terry Arnold, July 2016

Elizabeth Mahler Diaries (Oct 4,1947 - Aug 15, 1948)

October 4th Saturday

Last night about 11:30 o'clock I was awakened by a knock on the door. It frightened me. I called Dad. He went to the door and it was Johnnie. He didn't have school as it was homecoming.

We went to Mass this morning and Janice went to communion. Father Aucoin's sermon was good. The gist of it was "a quitter never wins and a winner never quits". I should have it turned around "a winner never quits and a quitter never wins" which is the same difference I guess. We brought home the laundry and groceries and had another breakfast did up the work and we packed a picnic lunch with lots of coffee and went over to Peddie's place and had our dinner with Dad. We all enjoyed it but Dad didn't idle long. Before I knew it he was gone on the tractor. Janice took a few snapshots. Johnnie stayed to help Dad and we came home. I washed the utility room floor and Jan waxed it for me. The men finished up the planting over there and brought the tractor home with them. We still have what is here on this place to do yet. Johnnie is taking public speaking this quarter. He read aloud to Betty and me while we did up the evening dishes.

October 5th Sunday

Dad painted the board around the front of the porch that I couldn't reach this morning. The girls and Johnnie got up quite late this morning so my work dragged out. After dinner Betty and I went for a walk out to the Badlands. Betty wanted to take some snapshots but by the time we got there the sun was under a cloud. When we got back it was time to take Johnnie to the bus. I took a short nap and then it was time to take the girls to the bus. We go through the same routine every Sunday. It rained quite hard this morning but I believe dad will be able to go to the field.

October 6th Monday

While Peddie hauled a load of washer rock Ori worked on fence. They both went to Dry Valley and hauled a load of sand and a load of gravel. Dad disked all day. He disked the garden again. He is trying to kill out the Johnson grass. It stood almost as high as I am. He plowed the garden first and this is the third disking for the garden and it is going to get another. We are going to have a small fall Garden. I'm going to order everbearing strawberries multiplying onions and some cabbage plants tonight.

I painted all day today.

This morning we heard the county is going to chert the road.

October 7th Tuesday

It rained this morning so the men didn't work.

Dad started to put the gutters on. He got along nicely I thought but he doesn't like to work with

tin.

I put on the first coat of paint on the furnace room walls. It looks messy. I hope the second coat does more for it. Also painted the frame of the front door.

Dad sold 50 posts.

Received a card from Connie. Agnes W is in the hospital at Lafayette cesarean operation, baby dead

October 8th Wednesday

Peddie and Orie cut 19 logs today. We are getting a load of sawed boards ready for Coursin. Dad disked all day. A shower brought him in early.

I put the second coat of paint on the furnace walls today. I'm satisfied. They look quite nice. I'm back to my favorite Indoor Sport again, working contests. Have four going now.

October 9th Thursday Bessie brought us \$70.80. Orie worked on fence all day. Dad delivered 100 posts today and has his truck loaded with 200 to deliver the first thing in the morning. He worked on gutters in between times. The fields are too wet for disking. I painted pipes all day in the furnace room. There is still a lot to do. Mr. Kerr paid dad today for the burning of the stumps on the right of way.

October 10th Friday

Dad delivered the 200 posts to Pelham the first thing this morning. Orie and Peddy cut cedar logs again today. I cleaned the house today. Dad disked in the afternoon. Johnnie got home early this Friday. He was here by 10 minutes after 6. The girls came in as usual. Jan brought me a box of candied cherries.

October 11th Saturday

Kate Corell sent me a note yesterday telling me that there would be no Mass today.

Dad started out planting here this morning. Johnnie finished putting up the first coat of paint on the back and front of the house and I painted all afternoon on pipes in the basement. I feel like we all got a lot done today.

Betty played the piano a lot today. I love to hear her play. Jan fooled around and gave everyone a helping hand.

October 12 Sunday

he girls and Johnnie drove over to see if the oats was up. They are. it showered today. The girls went home at the usual time but Johnnie went in at 8:15. Dad and I drove him in. We were ready for bed when Johnnie knocked on the door. There wasn't a bus at 8:15 in the evening. It was 8:15 a.m. He walked out then took the car and went back after his grip

Oct 14, Tuesday

Dad took Mr. Jones' seeder home the first thing this morning. Oats planting is over. thank goodness. The three men snaked out logs today and hauled three loads to the saw mill. One load was pine, the other two were cedar. The pine will be used on the tenant house.

Last night Jennie didn't come in so, after Dad got home from Jones' he went to look for her. She

was over at Carlyles'. I went with him and we had quite a time getting her out of the pasture. She didn't see the gate and she ran all over the pasture. We put her in the pasture back of the house when we got her home.

I painted all day again and cleaned the hole out where the sump is located. Was that a job!

Oct 15 Wed.

Dad worked with the two men in the woods today. Peddie hauled four loads to the mill. Dad drove the tractor in snaking the logs out and Orie hooked the chain on. They were all tired tonight. Those pine logs were really big. I walked out in the woods this evening to see what they had done.

Painted most of the day. Put the first coat on the floor and steps today. When I finished I pulled weeds around the house. Had a little shower tonight. Received a letter from Annie today. She says Agnes W. is better. I ordered flowers for her. She will probably be home by the time they get there. I wonder what they will do with them.

Oct 16 Thurs.

Peddie and Orie came this morning and after they, together with Dad, snaked out and hauled 28 logs to the mill, they went home. It took them until noon. All together they hauled 87 big pine logs. This will make over 5,000 but less than 6,000 ft. of lumber.

I put on the second coat of paint on the basement floor. Now it is finished. It looks very nice, I think. After lunch I cleaned up around the front of the house in the bushes. Dad went to Thorsby to see about getting some lumber dressed. Then he fixed the fence around the pig lot. White Boy and Rosalie have been getting out.

Oct 17 Fri.

Bill Carlyle stopped in to talk to Dad this morning. It was a quarter till nine when he left. Then Dad fixed a hole in the fence and went to work on the gutters. He is having quite a time. He says he will never make a tinner. However things went some better this afternoon.

I cleaned the house up today. Dad and I took a bath in the creek this evening. It was pretty chilly.

Janice didn't come home with Betty tonight. She was to have a date for the Alabama-Tennessee football game. Johnnie came in at Calera. The bus was late. There was a lot of traffic tonight. Clanton played Montevallo. Ethel asked for 30 cents to go to the game. Her father wasn't home from work when she came for the milk.

Oct. 18 Sat.

We went to Mass this morning. That is we went in but Father Aucoin didn't show up. It was very foggy and hard driving, but not a single college girl turned up, so maybe he didn't intend to come. We got the laundry and came home. The grocery store wasn't open. Bett went back later for the groceries.

Johnnie painted I all day. The first coat on the house is complete now. Dad worked on gutters and I loaded the truck with boards, tile and brick that were set aside and Dad hauled it back on the hill. Bett was handy man for Dad. She climbed around on the back porch like a squirrel. Dad knocked Chauncey in the head tonight. Now we have 13 calves. Six heifers and seven

bull calves. These look good.

Oct 19 Sunday.

Nothing much doing today. Johnnie worked on a five minute speech for his public speaking class. Bett read an entire book yesterday and today Johnnie left at 2:30 and Betty at 4:15 then Dad went over to Peddies for awhile.

Oct 20 Monday

Peddie didn't work today. He had to take his wife to the Doctor. She was out helping the men and she fell and broke her jaw bone.

Orie and Arthur worked on the fence on the triangle. Dad finished putting up the gutters with my valued assistance. He put the down spouts up too. We are starting on the second coat of paint on the house. Johnnie doesn't like to paint windows so I'm painting the windows and leaving the frames. I have two wooden horses upstairs and I take the old windows out and paint them. It goes fast that way. The new windows can't be taken out so I won't be able to do those only on the back porch. I painted three this afternoon.

Oct 21 Tuesday

Dad and Peddie took two loads of pine boards to Thorsby to be dressed. Orie and Arthur finished the triangle and worked on the garden fence today.

We are still putting hogs in every day. Each day we fix a hole and think now we have got them in for good and they make another hole. They always come in at night for food.

I painted 5 windows today.

Dad called Mr. Coursin to see if he was ready for a load of cedar. He told him to bring it on but he couldn't pay for it for a couple of weeks. Dad brought home some strawberry ice cream and we sat by the fire and ate it. It is chilly tonight but I think it is mostly because i left the windows out upstairs.

Oct 22 Wednesday.

This morning Peddie took the last of the pine to Thorsby to be dressed and Dad and I sacked oats. We sacked until 11 O'clock and then we stopped because we ran out of sacks. We want to clean the house out for baby chicks. The building was made for chickens but we used it for oats this summer because we have no grainary. We are going to get 100 chicks. it is getting a little late for fall chickens but i think we will go ahead anyway.

After dinner Peddie brought home the cedar we had sawed. The truck is out on the drive, gassed up, all ready to go to Leeds to Mr.Cousin. Dad wants to get an early start tomorrow morning. Peddie also finished the garden fence this afternoon and went home early. Dad painted the back gutters while I painted down the basement steps and waxed the floor. Then we both went out and started our fall garden. We set out 100 strawberry plants and 45 cabbage plants. We have 250 onion plants to put out tomorrow sometime and radish seed to sow. That will be all that we will put in.

Oct 23 Thursday.

Dad took the load of cedar to Mr. Coursin. He has been sick with arthritis and is going to Hot Springs so he paid for the cedar. It was \$245 worth.

I painted three windows today. We put the onions in and planted radish seed this evening. It is raining now, a slow drizzle. We need it badly. I hope it keeps it up all night. The dust from the road is awful

Als got a small check from Mr. Kerr tonight for \$26.27. It will be nice when we get all that is coming from him for building fence.

Oct. 24 Friday

Dad hauled the oats up to Nixs' and took the tractor up too. They are to grind it for him tomorrow. He also hauled the pig house down by the barn.

I cleaned the house. Bett and Jan came in on the bus at 7:30 and Johnnie came in at 9:15 at Calera. We all drove over to meet him. I always enjoy the drive but it seems the bus is always late. We all went out in the kitchen and had a snack and then sat around and talked.

Oct 25 Saturday. We went in to Mass again this morning and no Father Aucoin, no people, no nothing. Maybe I will stay at home for a change.

Johnnie painted all day. Dad cleaned the rest of the oats out of the chicken house and went to Nixes and brought home the ground oats. In the afternoon he caulked the fireplaces.

Bett and i went in together to get the groceries and take care of the bank business.

Jan has a bad cold. She didn't do much today. She had a busy weekend last week and stayed up late all week. I guess she is tired.

Burned a couple of brush piles today.

Johnnie brought home a record of a three minute talk he gave. This was done in public speaking. At the end of the course they will make another recording of his voice to see the improvement.

Oct 26 Sunday. Battenfields came out today. They both seemed to enjoy themselves and Dad and I both did too. We went out in the woods to look for persimmons. We found some and Hillred took them home to make a persimmon pudding. She is going to send me the recipe. Bett made a pot of coffee and fixed a few sandwiches while we were out so we had a snack when we came in.

Dad had taken Johnnie to the bus before they got here. He forgot his money and walked out here again. Mr. B. and Dad took him back again. The girls drove back to Birmingham with the Battenfields.

Oct 27 Monday

Dad caulked around the fireplaces again today. At noon we had a nice rain which we needed badly. I painted one window this morning and as I couldn't paint after the rain I painted some boards which were stored in the civil-war room and are to be used for gates. I got 5 long boards painted on both sides.

Dad went over to see Peddie this afternoon and also to see Mr. Burgin. He wants to rent some land for Johnnie, about 30 acres which he wants to put in corn. Mr. Burgin says he can rent it, so he is to go over the land when it dries off.

We ordered 100 barred-rocks, super-lay chicks this morning. I'm anxious now for them to come. They cost \$10.75

Oct 28 Tuesday We didn't accomplish much today. First Dad went out in the woods and sold 201 posts. Then he came in and started caulking. Then he decided to take Gert up to Carlyles' and have her bred. It was almost 10 o'clock when we had our dinner. After dinner I left the dishes and we went out to fix the fence where Rosalee was getting out. We were fixing the fence when a car drove in and a man came over to inquire where someone lived. He was from the mill and knew Dad so I went to meet him. His wife was in the car. They were both tremendously interested in the place so we took them through. Mrs. Edwards really was interested in the old furniture and everything. It was almost 4 o'clock before they left. We both enjoyed them but we don't have much to show for the day's work. I got a little painting in. Mr. Baker stopped in a minute this evening to tell us he had 4 calves but as we sold Bessie we aren't going to get any more calves this fall.

I worked in the house all day. Mrs. Carlyle told Dad today that she and the children were here to see me Friday but I didn't answer the door. I don't know where I could have been for I worked on the house all day.

Oct 29 Wednesday

This morning we worked on the pig lot fence again. Old Rosie just leans against the fence and then tumbles over. All the little pigs get out too. But White Boy can make it.

I painted again today. Dad went to look at some grain sorghum. This man has 75 acres of it and Dad is thinking of putting out some milo combine which is one variety of it. He got an order for 25,000 board feet of cedar from the University of Alabama to be used in the athletic department today too. So he had to go over and see if Peddie could work on the order.

It is quite chilly out tonight. I dread the coming of winter. My leg hurts tonight. I think the cold weather is bringing out my rheumatism.

Oct 30 Thursday

Dad and Peddie went to Birmingham today to buy Janice a horse. Dad got home around five o'clock and Mr. Miles brought the horse out on his truck. It was around 7:30 when he got here. I went out to admire it and then Dad went up to see George Nix to see if he could shoe it. One shoe is off. George is working for Mr. Jones and he can't do it tomorrow so he will have to get someone else. Dad was so mad. He wanted to have it all ready to go when Jan gets here tomorrow night.

I painted all day today. I had the window in Betty's room propped up with a board so I could paint the outside when it dropped on my head. The glass broke and my head went right through the frame. I have a very slight scratch on my forehead.

Oct 31 Friday

Dad bundled and tied some cedar to be sent to Panama City for cedar closets. He also took the feeder out of the small pig pen and put a hog house on the end. He is getting ready to lock Rosie in. We have given up trying to fix the fence any more. It is an old fence and we want to

tear it down just as soon as we have time to put a permanent one in across the creek. I cleaned the house today. Janice came home alone tonight. Tena is in town so Betty and she are to go shopping tomorrow. After Janice had something to eat Dad took her out to see her horse. She is so happy over it. The horse is black with a small white marking on its forehead and white stockings on the back feet. His name is Fox. To me it doesn't fit. Janice doesn't know what she will call it yet. Dad also got her a saddle blanket and a saddle and bridle. The horse and trimmings cost \$120.

Johnnie got home early this Fri. he was here when Jan got in He came in a taxi.

Cal stopped in tonight to borrow the trailer. He told us Charles had left home. It seems he has had a motorcycle for two weeks and has been getting on the bus every morning to go to school, then getting his motorcycle which he kept in a garage and playing hookey. But Thursday night he didn't come home. His mother is worried that he might be hurt. As usual everyone but his folks knew he was missing school.

Nov 1 Saturday

It was raining this morning so I decided not to go to church, for we didn't know if there would be any services or not. Father Aucoin was surprised that we didn't know he had been in an accident. Janice and Johnnie went in and got there just as he did. Jan gave him a couple of dollars for Masses to be read for Aunt Mary and Aunt Kate.

It rained all morning and we had to work in the house. Dad made a house for the chicks and fixed an electric light to heat it with. Johnnie fixed the windows in the chicken house. I painted some more boards for gates. The men also cut up some logs for the fireplace and buzzed up some boards. Janice and Johnnie played a lot with the horse today. Johnnie takes to riding naturally. He sits up there and flies along like an old hand. Janice has seatitis tonight. I think the stirrups are too low for her. She can't get the right rhythm. She rubbed the saddle with neatsfoot oil tonight.

It has turned quite chilly tonight after the rain. We are all sitting around the fireplace eating cookies and drinking cokes.

Nov 2 Sunday

After breakfast Johnnie got on Fox and rode(I guess Jan is going to call her horse Fox) over to Peddie's land to see the oats. It is 5 miles over there so he had quite a jaunt. Yesterday's riding didn't bother him but today he was sore, he had seatitis. He really let the horse out. It was all he could do to stay on he said.

Jan helped Dad put out two rows of multiplying onions. We should have onions to eat this coming year if we have nothing else. I did up the house work and swept up a bit for I thought Tenna and Betty might come out today. But it rained off and on this morning and afternoon too, so they probably changed their minds.

Jan rode the horse some today too. She really thinks a lot of her horse. Dad was glad she was pleased with it.

Dad took Johnnie to the bus and Jan later. I stayed home and read. He brought home ice cream and we put chocolate syrup on it. It hit the right spot.

Five calves didn't come in tonight. We are going to put a bell on one of them the next time they

come in.

Nov 3 Monday.

It was wet outside today so Peddie and Orie didn't come to work. They are to start on a cedar order for 25,000 ft of cedar boards for the athletic department of the University of Alabama. It worries me for the weather from now on won't be very nice.

Dad roughed in the kitchen sink today. Hurrah! Hurrah!. No one has any idea of what a luxury that is to me. I have water in the house now and I won't have to carry out the dirty water. I just finished taking a bath in it now. It is one of those deep sinks that hold the water.

I painted windows today and fixed two window sills. Also puttied two panes of glass that had been broken Everything went good today. We both felt like we had something to show for our day's work.

Dad talked to Put-Put today.

Nov 4 Tuesday.

Peddie stopped in early this morning to tell us he was taking some stock to Montgomery for Grady and he wanted to go to the state Highway Police headquarters to see about Charles. They haven't heard a thing from him and Peddie doesn't seem to have the slightest idea why the boy left. He wanted to know if Dad didn't want to go and buy his yearlings. So after breakfast he cleaned up and went in his car. He brought 11 which cost him \$523.73. These are Johnnie's yearlings. Right now they are out in the barn lot bawling their heads off. They look nice, however. I've seen them only by lantern light.

I painted and puttied window sills most of the day. The broadcast forecast showers so I stopped long enough to paint some gutters. I wanted them ready so we could get them up before the rain comes if possible.

Bolton stopped in today and wants 4 or 5 hundred posts and Jones stopped in and ordered 300 posts and 25 braces.

I've been spending some time on contests. There are a lot on now.

Nov. 5 Wednesday.

We had gone to bed last night when we decided that the yearlings' bawling was going further away, so John got up and went out to see and sure enough, all but three were out. We got in the car and tried to run them back this way but some ran into Brazier's yard and the others were out in the woods. We gave it up as a bad job and came back home and went to bed. Neither of us slept well. Got up early, had breakfast and started out. By noon we had 10 in and 1 to go, which was out in the woods. This evening the bawling of the others attracted it home and was I glad.

Tonight my legs hurt from all the tramping I did in the woods.

We were surprised this afternoon by John Guendling dropping in to see us. The Dr. told him to take a month's vacation so he was on his way to New Orleans. He will stop on his way back again. I enjoyed his visit. He told us all the news of the folks back home in Indiana.

Nov. 6 Thursday.

Got up a little earlier than usual as we wanted to make up some of the time we lost yesterday. As it is getting a little chillier it is harder to get up in the morning.

Dad started putting on the asbestos shingles today. It is a slow job but shows up big and looks oh, so nice. I puttied holes in the window frames and used plastic wood on the window sills.

Arthur and Orié have been working on cedar since Tuesday. They got 25 logs on Tuesday, 23 on Wednesday and 23 today. Today they also got 50 posts, and 25 on Tuesday. What they got in posts on Wednesday I don't remember. I think they are doing pretty good and Dad is pleased too.

Dad is now building a gate right here in our living room. This the eighth gate for him that he made. He isn't going to quite finish it, for he is short a board. I got the job of painting the gates.

Nov 7 Friday.

Dad worked on the back bathroom upstairs this morning. He is putting on the board. it rained quite a bit this morning so the men didn't come to work in the woods.

I cleaned the house today. Betty, Janice and Johnnie all came home for the week end.

Nov 8. Saturday

Went to Mass this morning. Johnnie painted. Dad worked on the siding. I painted a gate today, one across the road. All three of the children today riding Fox. Johnnie is the best rider.

Nov.9. Sunday.

Had late breakfast. After dinner Dad took Fox and went to look for two of the yearlings that crossed the creek and didn't come in last night. Before he got back Bob Holmquist and wife and baby came to see us. They were very interested in our house and what we are doing. Bob is doing real well in real estate. they have a new car and Mrs. Bob had on a lovely green suit-long. Their baby is big, I think, and she had it fixed up real sweet.

Betty got a late start home due to the fact that they were here. She had such a bad cold otherwise she would have gone back to Birmingham with them. Janice has another week's vacation and she is spending it here with us. Johnnie left on the 5:10 bus. Janice took several pictures of Fox with the different ones riding him. Ethel and Lily May and Lena Fay came over to see the house today too.

Nov 10. Monday

It started to rain early this morning and rained all day. So Dad drove to Columbiana to get the tags for the truck and car, our drivers licenses and pay the taxes. He stopped off at Calera on the way home and bought a larger water tank for the utility room.

We stopped selling milk to Braziers Saturday so I had a big churning today. Since the rains the pasture is better and there is a lot more cream in the milk.

This afternoon I puttied some on the front porch pillars. It was so nasty and cold I quit early.

Dad worked on the shower in the bathroom today.

Jan and I did the chores early tonight. Four of the yearlings didn't come in and as usual we are worried because it is raining. I like to do the chores when it rains.

Nov 11 Tuesday. it rained hard all morning. I puttied on the pillar posts some this morning.

Dad worked on the other bath room. At 11:30 he and Janice went in to meet the bus. Doris and Carol came out to see Janice. Carol enjoyed herself a lot. She really had a day of it. She is crazy about the cows, calves, and Fox. The girls went riding this afternoon and put Carol on the horse too. They went out in the woods too, in spite of the fact that it was quite wet. Dad brought in all the yearlings tonight except the one that got across the creek. It is growing wilder all the time. If we ever get it in I'm in favor of putting a yoke on it.

Nov. 12 Wednesday.

This morning the "wild man", the yearling that was out was on the side of the road by the barn and we got it in the first thing. Dad wouldn't put a yoke on him. He wants to try it once more just turning it loose with the rest.

Dad worked on the outside on the shingles. I didn't get much done on my puttying. Doris and Carol stayed all night and were here for dinner. They left on the 3:30 bus. I think they both enjoyed themselves. Doris wanted to know if she could bring Bill out sometime. John Gruending stopped off for a couple of hours on his way again. He was going to Indianapolis and Fowler before going home.

Nov. 13. Thursday.

Today father worked on the outside again. This place will be beautiful when it is finished. Sometimes when I come down the stairs I wonder if we'll ever have a shining bannister to put my hand on.

I got a lot done today on the pillars. Janice went riding with Vera Jones today. It was a quarter after eleven when they left and was 5 o'clock when they came home. They had lunch in Montevallo and then went to a blacksmith on the other side of Montevallo about 5 miles to get Fox's shoe fixed. The smith wasn't home. They picked up Ethel and then all three went riding. Janice said she really had a good time. Vera's horse's name is Major and the one Ethel rides is Ranger. They belong to Mr. Jones. Jan is tying up Betts birthday presents. It is the 18th but we will celebrate it Sunday, the 16th.

Nov. 14. Friday.

Dad went to Birmingham this morning. Bill Carlyle went with him. Dad got two tires for the car and some feed for the calves. They both stocked up with groceries Dad got 20 dollars and some cents worth.

It rained most of the morning so Janice and Vera couldn't go on a picnic like they had planned to do. I cleaned the house.

This afternoon Dad made a new feeder for the calves. Some of them have colds and we are worried about them. They are a lot of work.

Bett came home tonight and so did Johnnie as usual.

Peddie stopped in today to get old Bill. Charles is home. He was working in a little old show at Tallahassee. Peddie went after him. They had just finished loading the show and were going to move on after breakfast. He didn't say why Charles left home and I didn't ask.

Nov. 15 Saturday.

The three children went to Mass this morning. I didn't feel good and Dad also needed someone to help him with the calves so I didn't go. The Bullet is pretty sick and so is Streskie. I didn't do much save the cooking and cleaning up. I did set out 50 cabbage plants. I hope some of these grow.

Johnnie and Dad made another lean to on the side of the barn. They also fixed the barn doors and a stall or two. Hauled some cinders from the barn to the feed house. In other words they are getting the barn ready for winter.

Janice, Ehel, and Vera went horseback riding and on a picnic today. Jan said she really had a good time. She is getting to be a good rider. Bett read and played the piano today. She has a bad cold and doesn't feel well.

Johnnie got a B- in public speaking this week. He started out with a D, went to a C- then to C+ and now B-. Maybe he will reach A. I think it is doing him a lot of good.

Nov. 16. Sunday.

We got up late this morning. It was twenty minutes to seven. Everything ran late--the chores--breakfast and the house work.

We celebrated Betty's birthday today, which is on this coming Tuesday. I didn't get to make a cake but made a dessert which she likes real well. A custard with fruit on top and then whipped cream. We gave her writing paper, bedroom slippers and a silver choker. We always lay the presents by the dinner plate of the person who is having a birthday.

Johnnie rode over to see the oats on Fox. Betty and Janice rode a little too.

The girls left first today. Johnnie took them in while Dad and I started the chores. We weren't finished when Bill Carlyle, his wife, and children drove in. This is the first time I met her. They didn't stay so long for we had to take Johnnie to Calera to the bus. We had to finish our chores when we got back. It wasn't late but it was dark. The Bullet died shortly after they left. He recommended we give him some hot coffee. We are doctoring 6 others with sulfa drug.

Nov. 17. Monday

Today was a beautiful day and no men. Orie was to bring a new man with him but they didn't show up. It is quite discouraging. We have a lot of post orders beside the cedar order for the University.

I don't feel like I have much to show for a day's work. Fixed 4 window sills and painted the insides of the frames. Dad cleaned the barn out. Went to see Mr. Burgin. He has decided not to rent any land from him. He also went to see Adelaide and went to the bank. I hope we don't have many more days like today. We never will get this place finished.

I'm reading "The Vixens". It is good We read in bed every night.

Nov. 18. Tuesday.

It rained all day today so of course the men didn't come. Dad got the bath ready to plaster today. I read practically all day. There wasn't anything for me to do anyway. I couldn't paint or putty.

Haven't heard from the chicks so sent off a letter today.

Nov.19. Wednesday

Orie and the new man came today. It was wet in the woods but they got 93 posts and 26 logs. That is very good.

Dad put the plaster on the bath wall. I didn't do much again today, but read.

Ed Mayhan was here. Maybe he will come back to work.

Nov.20. Thursday

Orie and Pierson got 56 posts and 23 logs today.

Dad worked on the siding. I churned, cleaned up the plastering mess he made in the bathroom and hauled in a lot of wood and stacked it on the back porch.

Mr. Jones came to see about his posts today. He had his wife out in the car. Dad showed him (after he asked) the utility room. Then he wanted to know if his wife couldn't see it. They live beyond the crossroads somewhere and they are remodeling a house too. There is hardly a week goes by that we don't have some strange people come in to see this place.

My back hurts tonight. I don't know if I have a crook in it or a cold is settling in it.

It is getting warm outside. Suppose that means rain again. One can't get around the elements. Such is life. I feel pessimistic tonight.

Nov.21. Friday.

Orie was the only man we had today. He snaked out posts, 175, and 26 logs.

Dad worked on siding and I cleaned the house. Betty and Janice stayed in Birmingham this week to do their Christmas shopping. Johnnie came in to Calera at 9:15. He got another B- in public speaking. He is getting a lot out of the course.

Nov.22. Saturday. Johnnie and I went to Mass then got the laundry and groceries. After we got back we had a big breakfast. I had gone to Communion. Then he and Dad cut up all the logs laying in the yard for firewood. they then worked on the siding.

We stayed up late talking and reading.

Nov. 23. Sunday.

Up late and a late breakfast. Johnnie studied. He is going to have some tests. I cleaned up the house. We fooled around, didn't do much of anything. We take Johnnie to Calera to catch the 5:30 bus now. We do up the chores and have coffee and sandwiches before we go so we have to start early.

Oh, yes Streakie was dead this morning. I think we over did it. We gave him 2 cups of coffee with two sulpha tablets sin it and two table spoons of whiskey. He wouldn't have lived but we thought we would give him something that would pack a wallop and jar him out of it. It did. The Bullet died a couple of weeks ago too. We now have only eleven and the eleven that Johnnie bought. They are a lot of trouble. I hope we can pull the 22 through the next three months.

Nov.24. Monday.

It rained hard last night so Orie didn't come to work.

I helped Dad with the siding. I cut and punched holes and he puttied and nailed them on. We did pretty well. This evening he put a floor in the bathroom and I churned a big churning. I want

to be able to work with him again tomorrow for it goes so much better with the two of us working. Set a mousetrap tonight. I thought I heard one last night on the buffet. When I think back to when we moved in here. The place was overrun with rats and mice. We used to chalk it up the wall how many we killed each day. John used to sit out on a log by the porch and shoot a rat every morning before breakfast, so what is just one little mouse?

Nov. 25. Tuesday.

No men today. Dad and I worked on siding. Johnnie came home tonight. He skipped, or will skip classes tomorrow. This gives him a 5 day vacation.

Nov.26. Wednesday.

Dad was to go to Birmingham and then he was to bring home the girls. Something went wrong on the car so he put in a call through to Betty's office to let them know. They came out on the bus.

Johnnie painted a little while, worked on posts a while and worked on siding a while.

I cleaned up around a bit and baked three pumpkin pies today.

Nov.27. Thursday.

Today was Thanksgiving Day. The men worked on posts

We were going to have one of Grady's chickens for dinner but dad went off to work and forgot to kill it for me. I had a roast on hand so had that instead. I will kill the chicken and have it Sun. instead. We have it locked up in a crate. Had mashed potatoes, buttered pea, gravy, celery, baked onions, cranberries, and pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

The girls helped me with the dishes and spent the day fooling with the horse and playing the piano.

Our 100 baby chicks, Barred Rock Super-lays came today Mr. Bergin brought them out from the post office when he went home at noon. They are all strong save for two. One has twisted toes and the other is spraddled legged. I hope we have good luck with them.

Betty and Janice went home on the bus. They hated to go back for they will come out again tomorrow night.

Nov.28. Friday.

Pierson snaked logs off the island. Johnnie delivered posts to Mr. Jones. He ordered 25 braces. Dad went to Birmingham and he brought the girls home with him. I cleaned the house and baked butterscotch pies.

Nov.29. Saturday.

The girls and Johnnie went in to Montevallo this morning but no one turned up for Mass.

Dad and Johnnie worked on posts. The girls and Vera went riding but as both horses had sore feet they didn't stay out long. Vera was here for dinner. Then she went and got the jeep and she and Janice went riding. They went over to the horse farm at Calera. Betty sewed. She is making a new blouse.

We haven't been getting much done on the house the last few days.

Nov.30. Sunday.

Had a 5 point breakfast this morning. Every time we have an extra big meal, Johnnie says this is a five point meal.

Janice and Dad made out a Christmas order today. Bett wrote up a speech for Johnnie. The girls went home on the bus. Dad took Johnnie to Calera and he isn't home yet. He just got the car out of the garage but it isn't working right. I'm worried. He should have been home an hour and a half ago.

Dec 1. Monday

We are having a lot of bad luck lately. John had to park his car on the roadside and hail a taxi to get home. He went after it the first thing this morning and took it to the garage. This afternoon he took the truck and went to Thorsby to get some lumber. They sent a card saying it was ready and when he got there it wasn't dressed. On his way home the truck went haywire and now it is in the garage. If it isn't one thing it is the other. Dad is depressed tonight, so I don't dare be. It wouldn't do for the both of us to get in the dumps at the same time.

I fixed three window sills today. We have lost only 3 chicks so far. There were 101. It was cold enough to freeze the milk and water in the brooder house last night. Tonight we put feed sacks around the houses. They settled right down and chirped just like they were under an old hen. Pierson is working on the line fence on the back side of the farm. Orie hasn't come back yet. His wife is sick.

Dec.2. Tuesday.

Dad and I finished shingling the gable today and put the black paper on around the kitchen side. Things went good for a change.

Pierson snaked posts. He also put a shoe on Fox. Janice will be glad when she comes home next Friday. He also took out a piece of old fence across the road.

We are beginning to think Orie isn't coming back to work.

Dec.3. Wednesday.

Orie came to work today so he and Pierson cut posts. They said they got 100 posts. The two negroes that Dad hired yesterday evening didn't show up.

We worked on the siding and did pretty well. I also fixed three window sills while Dad went in to see if the car was ready. He took it out and got out over the overhead bridge when it stopped again. So he walked in and had them pull it in again. We are having the rottenest luck!

Dec.4. Thursday.

Pierson put shoes on Ada the first thing this morning. Her feet were so tender and sore. We've had the mares shod twice and they cast their shoes both times. Pierson seemed to know what he was doing alright. He really is trying to please. He wants to work here steady. Dad filed the saw then Orie and Pierson went to the woods to cut posts. They only got 60 but it was late when they started.

Dad and I worked on siding. We made real headway. The weather had a lot to do with it I think.

It was so warm and mild today

So far I have lost only 4 chicks out of 101. That isn't so bad. They are beginning to feather out already. They are 9 days old now.

I have been working on contests but no luck. I sometimes wonder why I keep on.

Dec.5. Friday.

The two men went home right away this morning because it was raining. Dad put siding on in the breezeway and I cleaned the house. The girls and Johnnie came home as usual. Janice had another date this week which seems to make everything right. The candy order came from Sears today.

Dec.6. Saturday.

This morning when we got to church Father Aucoin had forgotten the wine so we couldn't have Mass. He was quite embarrassed. Next Sat. there will be Mass and then we won't have it again until after the holidays. We will all go to Confession and Communion next Sat.

Betty cooked most of the meals today and I worked with Dad. I thought we accomplished quite a lot. Johnnie worked in the barn. He made a new hay rack, put on locks and moved the pig house.

This evening Dad and Johnnie cut up some big logs for firewood. It takes a lot to keep warm. We are using just one fireplace as we are living in one room.

Bett and I played solitaire tonight for awhile. We are getting our presents ready for Xmas and Johnnie is having lots of fun peeking and teasing Janice.

Dec 7. Sunday

We have been having so much fruit salad and whipped cream that I feel like a stuffed toad. We had it twice yesterday and twice today. The children always want whipped cream when they come home. Janice took a pound of butter back with her to give some man in her office who is getting something for her to give us for Christmas. I guess he gets it wholesale. She also took a half pound for she and Betty.

Johnnie took his usual ride over to see his oats. Janice didn't do so much riding this weekend. Two men stopped in and wanted to buy 300 Christmas trees. They offered 35 cents. Dad asked 65 cents and they came up to 50 cents so the deal didn't go through.

Betts looked better this week. She seemed more rested. They won't be home next week end as they want to finish their Christmas shopping.

Dec.8. Monday

We had another man stop by today who wanted to buy Xmas trees. He offered \$.20. I told him we wouldn't consider selling any at that price. I wish the man that stopped Sunday would stop by again.

It rained so we had no men in the woods today.

Dad was gone all morning on business. He collected \$56.43 for posts from Walton. Went to Calera to see about the truck. It is ready and will cost \$107. Bowden is trying to sell him a new truck. It was 1:30 when he got home. I puttied on the posts of the front porch while he was

gone.

About 2 o'clock we started out to look for 10 of the yearlings which crossed the creek. We found them in the third oats field but we couldn't make them cross back again. We tried to get them out the gateway but we couldn't make them go that way either. So we left them out there. It is due to turn cold tonight and has been raining off and on all day and we hate for them to be out in the weather. I'm tired from walking in woods. I don't feel like I have much to show for the day. Received last check for road work, \$35.67 today. Johnnie's army blanket came from Sears today.

Dec.9. Tuesday.

Orie brought a nephew with him this morning so we had 3 men working on posts today. Dad and I went to Calera first thing this morning to get the truck. I drove the car back. Then Dad put up a gate to the pasture on the other side of the creek and I puttied porch pillars. Had an early dinner and then we started on siding. We didn't get much done for it started to rain. Dad then worked on the shower in the back bathroom and I helped. It got dark early tonight so we did our chores early and had early supper and now Dad is finishing the shower.

Dec.10. Wednesday.

It rained all night so the men didn't come to work today.

I baked a big batch of cookies this morning, the first since we moved in here. I'm getting used to cooking with all my handicaps here. Sometimes I think we will never finish this place. It will take two more years of this living to do it at least, and maybe more.

Dad worked on the floor in the bathroom and on the toilet. We now have a toilet in the house. After getting up during the night in rain, frost, and etc. and going out doors, that really is something. Maybe I will be a lady again after all.

I puttied on posts again today. Another dry day and I'll have them finished. I'm going to wash windows in the kitchen now (after supper) for Xmas. If I don't start now I'll never get it done. Have to scratch off putty and paint. I want to make a cedar wreath to hang in the kitchen window.

Dec.11. Thursday.

It was another nasty day today. The men couldn't work again. We tried working on siding but it was too cold so Dad worked on trimming the bathroom. I finally finished puttied the porch pillar and now I'm starting on the sanding of the old trim. I'm using a power tool. It is rather fascinating work.

The chickens are two weeks and 2 days old and there are 97 left out of 101.

Dec.12. Friday.

It was raw and cold today but we worked on siding and things went well. We accomplished quite a piece.

Pierson worked on fence today. Orie didn't come.

Johnnie got in early tonight. He walked out from Montevallo and got his shoes muddy. He only made a C in public speaking this week.

Dec.13. Saturday.

Dad did the chores alone this morning and things went better for me. Johnnie and I went to Mass. I went to Communion. This week will be the last Mass now until after the holidays. Father Aucoin had a nice sermon. There was a new man there today. He is painting the post office.

Dad put up some black paper on the house. Then he and Johnnie cut up a lot of wood. Johnnie rode Fox out in the woods to see the yearlings. he also fixed a wire around the pigs self feeder to keep the calves away from it.

I cleaned the house today and baked a Midnight Cake.

It cleared off this evening and seems to be getting colder. I'm tired of all the rain we have been having.

Dec.14. Sunday

We got up late this morning. I decided to make a quick coffee cake. A recipe I've had around here and wanted to try for a long time. it called for two tablespoons of sugar and I used two cups. I had my glasses on and I don't know how I made such a mistake. It was like eating candy dough. Half the pan is left.

Johnnie studied most of the day. He is getting ready for tests again. Tuesday finishes up the quarter. Dad drove him to Calera tonight and I stayed here and did the dishes.

Dec. 15 Monday.

It rained hard this morning so the men didn't come again.

Dad worked in the bathroom and I cleaned a chicken and cooked it in the oven in gravy. In the afternoon we worked on siding. Did fairly well. The wind was blowing so strong you could feel the scaffolding shake at times.

Dec. 16 Tuesday

Two men in the woods today. Dad and I finished the gable today. it really looks good. We had trouble starting the truck this morning. I was in the truck and Dad pulled me all over creation with the tractor. Finally he decided to put me on the tractor. He showed me how it worked so away I went. It was fun at first but when we started up the hill the road is sideways and I got scared. So he took the battery out of the tractor and put it in the truck and started it that way. Received our first Xmas card today from Margaret. Also sent us a snapshot of herself with some of her paintings.

Dad is idling the car. It is getting cold out and he is going after Johnnie at Calera. He will be home 17 days now until the next quarter starts. It is supposed to get down to 24 degrees tonight.

Dec.17 Wednesday

Such luck as we have had today! Dad wanted to get posts out and he got both the truck and tractor stuck. Johnnie delivered 100 posts to Mr. Jones and he wasn't home, so he didn't get a

check. A whole day and that is all they have to show for it. The two men, Ori and Pierson also helped them. Getting out posts doesn't pay at that rate. Sometimes I wish we hadn't bought this place.

I baked pies today and cleaned up the mess we had made upstairs with the shingles.
Wrote my Xmas cards tonight.

Dec 18. Thursday

The day started off wrong again today. The car gave trouble and they had to take it to the garage.

Dad and Johnnie set the forms and got part of the concrete poured for the cover on the well today.

Two boys stopped in today and wanted some Xmas trees to decorate a hall. They only wanted ten, which we let them have at 50 cents apiece. They are coming back tomorrow to get a load to sell. I hope they have good luck so they will come back for more.

Dad paid Ori and Pierson off tonight. The weather has been bad so much of the time it just doesn't pay to have them on that kind of work now.

I worked the windows in kitchen on the outside. I was tired of looking at those putty fingerprints. I want to make a large cedar wreath and hang it in the middle window for Xmas.

Dec. 19. Friday.

Dad worked awhile on siding, alone this morning and started into Birmingham this afternoon. He had car trouble again so turned around and came back. We have been having a lot of trouble with the car. Johnnie painted all the chimneys a first coat of paint. Then did some cleaning up around in the yard.

The boys who got the Xmas trees didn't come until evening. They had trouble with their truck. They went out and got 9 trees. They said they would come back tomorrow but I don't think they will.

Betty and Janice came home on the bus. They were disappointed because Dad didn't get to Birmingham for they were going to bring all their gifts.

Dec 20th Saturday

Dad and Johnnie cut up wood this morning, then Betty and Johnnie went to Birmingham on the bus. Johnnie wanted to go to confession. They were having a Xmas Novena and they didn't hear confessions in the afternoon, so he didn't get to go. They came back on the 7:30 bus in the evening with all their gifts.

Janice and Vera Jones went riding this morning and again in the afternoon. They took pictures of each other on their horses and then they had me get on Fox and Janice took my picture. Then I took them together. Janice was tired tonight and went to bed early. She really likes to ride.

The boys didn't come for more trees.

I washed our living room windows on the outside today.

Finished writing my Xmas cards tonight. I went out around 10 o'clock to see how Rosalee was. She started to have her pigs after supper. She was just cleaning up her den. I counted the pigs

and there were either 10 or 11. I couldn't count them very well. I hope we raise them all.

Dec 21 Sunday.

Late breakfast then the girls and Dad went out to get our tree and cedar to make wreaths. Johnnie rode over to see his oats on Fox. While they were gone Dr. Sorrell came to tell Dad he could have the combine for \$150 and that they had found the hitch for it. He had gone to see it on Saturday.

I was starting dinner when two cars stopped out in front and looked at the house. This isn't anything unusual for cars are always driving by slow to look. Everyone is interested in this place. Well, they drove in and it was Mr. Allen and friends. He was the former owner of this place, that is he and his sister. They wanted to get three trees. Since it was Mr. Allen we asked them in. They had all been in the house before, and were quite interested. They stayed and stayed and I burned the fish and spoiled the whole dinner. They want to come back to see the house when it finished.

Janice had to go back to Birmingham alone. Betty is taking a week off and Johnnie has 17 days vacation.

The girls got the tree decorated today.

Dec. 22. Monday.

Johnnie painted the chimneys a second coat today. This house is really going to be something as far as I am concerned. Dad and I worked on siding and accomplished a lot. The day was warm and sunny.

Rosalee still has her 11 pigs and the chickens are doing fine. They are growing so fast. Betty washed the dishes today so I could get to work sooner with Dad. She is enjoying her vacation reading, resting and playing her piano.

Our Xmas cards are coming in.

Dec. 23 Tuesday

Ah, our house is really going to be something. We almost finished the front corner.

Mr. Nix and Pete came down to look at some pigs otherwise we would have finished the small piece of gable that is left. Dad had to get down off the scaffold and show them the pigs. Maybe he will buy 7 of them. We don't have enough corn to feed them out. He said he would buy our yearlings too but we don't want to sell them. He is a bargain hunter if there ever was one.

Johnnie started an extension on the shed back on hill. it is just a temporary shed. He finished it today.

Bett washed the dishes and she learned a new piece on the piano, "Morning Mist."

I didn't get my wreaths made yet. The new pigs are doing fine.

Dec. 24. Wednesday.

Dad and Johnnie went after the combine today. I cleaned the house and made 5 cedar wreaths. Janice came home on the 3:30 bus. We have a new little calf today.

After supper I cleaned a chicken for our dinner for tomorrow and then we had our presents. The children spent a lot of money on presents but Dad and I didn't spend much. Maybe by next year

we will be better organized. We didn't even go to Birmingham to shop. The girls did our shopping and I sent for a few things from Sears. We had lots of fun opening our packages and listening to Christmas carols. Dad and Janice brought down the good radio from upstairs.

Dec. 25. Xmas

We used our new automatic toaster this morning which Janice gave to us all. It is a beauty and we enjoyed the toast for our old one hasn't been working for a long time.

Had a big dinner, chicken and all the rest, with lots of whipped cream on the fruitcake. Spent the day loafing, reading, and listening to the Christmas Music. The day flew by. Supper leftovers and more music.

Dec. 26. Friday

Wednesday Dad and Johnnie got the tractor over to Dr. Sorrells place where the combine is that they bought last Wed. but didn't bring it home for they thought it was too late, so they got an early start and went after it this morning. They got home about 12:30.

After dinner Dad and I completed the gable. Johnnie had to put another extension on the shed. He didn't have it big enough for the combine. Betts read and Janice went riding.

Dec. 27. Saturday.

Dad and Johnnie sawed up a lot of wood this morning. It takes a lot. I think they have enough for the next two weeks.

After dinner Johnnie worked on his shed and finished it. Dad and I started on the siding on the other corner. Things went well. We went up four courses.

Jan went riding and Bett sewed. She is making a pique aqua blouse. Her vacation is doing her a lot of good. I wish she could have another week off.

Dec. 28. Sunday.

Peddie and Cal came over this morning. They were interested in everything. We have new pigs, a new calf and the chickens since Peddie has worked here. Cal wanted to see what had been done on the house. They brought back our concrete mixer after lunch. Just before dinner George Nix stopped a while and after dinner I was out transplanting some flowers when Mrs. Brazier and children walked over. John thought I was going to bring them in the house so he didn't shave and then the Battenfields drove in. He, John, looked like the wrath of God. He said he guessed he would have to shave the first thing in the morning on Sunday before anyone came. There are always little thing to be done and he gets started on them when someone comes and they get to talking and as a result he is hardly ever cleaned up. Miriam was home from school and Kent too and they were along, together with Miriam's boyfriend. The girls drove back to Birmingham with them. The Xmas holiday is over. The days just fly by so fast!

Dec. 29. Monday

After breakfast Dad was sick and went back to bed. he had a bad stomach ache Johnnie decided to go the dentist as there wasn't anything for him to do alone. He went to Dr. Orr. He gave him an appointment April 17. Now isn't that something! I wanted him to go to a dentist at

Auburn but I guess he intends to wait. Dr. Orr can see him only on a Saturday or rather Johnnie can go only on a Saturday.

There being nothing else for me to do I started to clean up the lawn.

I poached two eggs for Dad for dinner and had leftovers for Johnnie and me. After dinner Dad went out and helped Johnnie put up the line for the foundation of the garage. Then Dad went to Montevallo and Johnnie dug out the footings. Dad feels a lot better but is not quite right yet.

We felt like we didn't have much to show for our day's work.

A Mr. Able came and got the shingle cutter and needs it for two days. He said he would take it back to Frosts, so we will have to go in and get it.

Dec. 30. Tuesday

Dad had gone over yesterday to Pierson's to tell him to come to work today. His wife said he would be here but he didn't show up. So Dad and Johnnie went out in the woods with the tractor and truck and got 3 loads of cedar logs which Johnnie took to Melton's sawmill. I cleaned up in the back yard. I want to get the yard raked good before the grass comes up in the spring, for there still is wire and tin cans half buried in the ground. Last year when I raked I just had to pull over it for the grass was too high. We wanted to get the yard graded this winter but it doesn't look like we are going to get it done.

Dad and Johnnie are sitting by the fire talking business.

Dec. 31. Wednesday.

This last day of 1947 I raked in the back yard. Dad got some logs out while Johnnie went to the sawmill and got our cedar boards and stacked them upstairs. These boards are for our closets and frames for the screens. It rained around 11 o'clock so the men couldn't work in the woods. So they got things ready to pour concrete tomorrow. Dad wants to finish the cover on the well, put in posts for clothes line and put the foundation in the garage. This is all lined up for tomorrow.

This evening Johnnie pruned the pussy willow bush for me.

We are sitting around the fire reading, and listening to the radio and I'm writing. This is the way we are celebrating New Year's Eve. It is raining out. Now and then it lightnings and thunders. Bett and Janice aren't coming home for New Years as they work Friday. They hate to ride back on the bus.

Jan 1. 1948. Thursday

We worked as usual today. it was cold so the men started to work upstairs but things didn't go well so they came down and poured the concrete for the footings and laid the block for the foundation for the garage.

I worked on the lawn. Pruned the rose bushes too. Made a chocolate pie today. Some one asked for chocolate pie, I believe it was Janice and she wasn't here. Feel like we accomplished something today.

Jan.2. Friday

Dad and Johnnie put up the framework of the garage today. I cleaned the house.

Betty and Janice came tonight. They told us all about where and what they did New Year's Eve and Day. Had a good time.

Jan. 3. Saturday

Johnnie and Dad worked on the garage this morning. After lunch Johnnie went to Birmingham so the girls and I helped Dad on the garage. Betty cut out a plaid cotton blouse and started to sew it up. It is blue and is going to be nice, I think. Jan went riding.

We had 12 1/2 lbs of chocolate candy for Xmas, besides the hard tack and it is almost all gone.

No Mass today. The college girls won't be back until this week end. We will start having Mass next Saturday

Jan.4. Sunday

It seems quiet tonight. The children are all gone. Johnnie went back to Auburn this afternoon.

He hated the thought of getting in line for books etc. The girls went back to Birmingham.

Dad and Janice went out in the woods with the truck and gathered up pine limbs for the fireplace.

We named the new calf Harold, after the herald angels and Rosie's new litter of pigs we call little Christmas carols. They were born just before Xmas.

Tomorrow I start charging Braziers 20 cents a quart for milk. We had been selling it for 15 cents. It is 24 cents at the store now.

Jan. 5. Monday

This morning I cleaned the chicken house and found one chicken dead. It had gotten into a sack that I had draped around the house to keep the heat in. That means we have 96 chickens left out of 101. Not so bad though. They will be six weeks old Wednesday.

After lunch I finished off the concrete for the cover on the well. John worked on the garage all day.

Jan 6. Tuesday.

Today Dad and I worked together on the garage. He sawed and put in a nail to hold the board and I came along and hammered in the rest of the nails. We accomplished quite a lot. Ran out of boards and had to sort and restack some on the hill to get what we needed. We got them together and are all set to continue tomorrow.

Jan.7. Wednesday

Today I mended. There were several things around here to be taken care of that I have neglected because Betty had the sewing machine in Fairfield. She brought it out here a couple of weeks ago.

Dad worked alone on the garage. He said it went slow so I guess I must have been of some help yesterday. He also went to Montevallo for groceries. The fellow who came and got the machine to cut the shingles with didn't bring it back, as he said he would and Mr. Frost said he guessed it was over at the Spring Creek church. One thing I can't get used to is that many of these people don't keep their word. It doesn't seem to mean a thing to them.

Jan 8. Thursday.

After I finished up my house work we drove the truck back on the far wooded hill to gather up wood for the fireplace. it was 12 o'clock when we got back and Dad unloaded while I got some lunch. I ate like a wolf and was so tired I went to sleep in the rocker by the fire. Dad went right out and worked on the garage. he finished it save for a few boards which he doesn't have to trim out the window and doors.

I worked awhile raking on the back lawn. A man stopped in to see if this was the old Perry place. he heard that someone had bought it awhile back and were going to remodel it and then decided not to go through with it and that it was for sale. How things like that get started is beyond me.

Jan.9. Friday

Dad snaked cedar logs today with the tractor. i cleaned the house and baked a chocolate cake. The girls came home tonight. The bus broke down so the whole bunch, including Betty and Janice got on another bus which took them to Calera and then they got a taxi there. It was almost nine o'clock when they got here. They usually get here anywhere from 7:15 to 7:30. needless to say we were worried about them. Johnnie didn't come home for he has to go to school tomorrow.

Jan. 10. Saturday

We went to Mass this morning. Did up our shopping after Mass.

Dad worked in the woods. Betty went out and looked for the logs for him. Jan and I did up the work. After dinner Jan went riding. She went after our horses. They got out and were down at Carlyles. I raked in the backyard all afternoon.

Everyone was hungry tonight. We all ate like tramps.

I found another dead chicken today. I now have 95. We have the last of three old hens locked up to eat. I wanted to have it for dinner tomorrow but I forgot to have Dad kill it for me so we will have it sometime next week

.

Jan. 11. Sunday.

Got up at at 6 this morning. Dad did several odd jobs around. Fixed the door on Jennie's stall, fixed the fence around the feeder and restacked some lumber and made a roost for the chickens. They are all feathered out now.

Harold is growing fast. he is so cute and so are the little Christmas Carols (the little pigs)

Had a big dinner at noon. I almost always have whipped cream on my dessert on Sundays.

Today had a orange flavored custard topped with bananas and that topped with whipped cream.

The girls always want whipped cream.

Betty cut out a dress for Janice today. We all started a new book today so we lounged around and read. I am reading "Lust for Life" a novel based on the life of Vincent Van Gogh. It is very interesting.

Girls took the 4 o'clock bus back to Birmingham.

Jan.12. Monday.

Dad went to Melton's mill and got a load of cedar which he is deliver to the Birmingham schools. The order he got for 25,000 ft of cedar sometime ago which we both thought was for the University was for the Birmingham Schools. This man's name is Thomas too, hence the mistake. But I think there is something rotten in Denmark, somewhere. Dad also snaked out some logs.

I mended today.

Jan.13. Tuesday.

Two Negro boys came to work today. Dad worked with them on fence.

I finished the mending today and got in a little reading this afternoon too, for a change. it was too cold to work outside.

Dad thinks he found a ride for the girls. I wonder how things will work out.

Jan.14 Wednesday.

This morning we arose at 5:30 so that Dad could get an early start to Birmingham with his cedar. He had trouble getting the truck started and didn't get started until 10 o'clock.

I baked butterscotch pies and churned and read while he was gone. it was cold today, snowed a little while this morning and when Dad got home he was so cold. Wwe sat by the fireplace until he was warmed up and then we did up the chores. It is 8 O'clock and he is in bed already. He brought back \$196.35 for the cedar.

Jan 15. Thursday.

This morning when we got up the water was frozen in the pipes. No water in the bath room, kitchen and utility room. We had to draw water up from the well. It got down to 14 degrees. I heated water for Rosie and the chickens. The two colored
(Book IV)

boys got here at 7:30. Dad had them put the hay on the truck and put it into the mow. They moved a whole stack. Dad worked around here doing up odd jobs.

Jan. 16 Friday

It was cold again this morning. Everything still frozen up. Dad worked with the colored boys on fence and they snaked a few logs too. I cleaned the house. Betty, Janice, and Johnnie all came in on the same bus at 7:30. Everything was frozen out at the mill too. At least there was no water there. They had to go to the Steel Works to the restroom.

Jan is now studying up on her shorthand. johnnie has a room by himself. It is very small but he likes it better.

Jan. 17. Saturday

It gets colder and colder. Was 9 degrees this morning. The car wouldn't start so we didn't go to Mass.

All I did today was wash dishes and cook. It was so cold we sat around the fire a lot and read. Betty is making Janice a red bolero wool dress.

This morning Dad and Johnnie got two loads of cedar logs out of the woods to the mill. After

dinner Johnnie took the bus to Birmingham to get himself an overcoat. He got a tan camel cloth coat. He looks good in the color. Considering prices he did well for he only paid 30 dollars. He went to Robert Halls, a new place that has been advertising a lot over the radio.

Dad chopped up lots of wood again today. It takes a lot when it gets so cold. We brought all the animals into the barn tonight including the horses. I marvel how Rosie takes care of her little pigs. Put extra hay in her house to keep her warm.

Jan. 18. Sunday.

Still cold. We didn't get up until 7 o'clock this morning. Still heating water for the pigs and chickens.

We all sat around the fire, reading, writing letters and listening to the radio.

Dad took the three children all in at the same time today. Johnnie was going to get a bus to Calera and then take another one there to Auburn. Jan took a pt. of whipping cream with her. Did up our chores early tonight.

Jan.19. Monday.

The weather is beginning to moderate. The two colored boys were right on tap this morning. First they helped Dad load a truck of cedar logs which he took to the mill, and then they cut up wood the rest of the day.

This afternoon Dad went to Frosts and got more trim to finish out the garage. He also started to shingle the roof.

i decided to burn off the front lawn. It looked so bad then I had to rake it. Didn't finish but accomplished quite a lot.

It was much warmer tonight. Oh, yes, I lost one more chicken. Now we have 94.

Jan. 20. Tuesday

The Negroes set posts and cleared today. Dad did up some odd jobs and then started to shingle the roof of the garage. I worked on the front lawn today. Everyone gawks when they go by. Guess they think I am in a hurry raking the lawn in the dead of winter, but it won't be long before it will be garden time. Then I'll be ready to put my time in on that.

Jan. 21. Wednesday.

Dad sent the colored boys home this morning because it was raining. Dad worked upstairs on the bathroom. Put up the tile board walls. After I finished my housework I went up and helped him. We worked all day and had one piece to go. The hard place back of the lavatory. After supper Dad went up and finished. It took 2 1/2 hours. The bathroom is beginning to look nice. Finished my book tonight---Lust for Life.

Jan.22 Thursday

The boys cleared today. We gained about another acre across the road. Dad put braces on the fence this morning and worked on the garage roof after dinner.

I puttied and painted all the nails hole in the tile board in the bathroom. It looks good. Also cleaned off the paper on the lavatory and cleaned the toilet and new medicine cabinet.

Mr. Carlyle stopped and wanted two quarts of milk every other day for about two weeks. I hated to say he could have it for the chickens will have to do without. They are growing so big and I want them to keep on doing well. He says he will have a fresh cow in about two weeks.

Jan. 23. Friday.

it started to snow around 6 o'clock this morning and is still snowing. We heated water for the chickens and Rosie. Put the yearlings out but when it began to snow real hard they wanted to come in, so we brought them in, which was around 11:30. One of the yearlings that was across the creek in too. We are worried about the other 6 that stay out on the oats fields and Dad went out to see if he could find them, after we had our dinner, but he couldn't even see a track. They are probably bedded down in the woods. I hope the snow won't be too hard on them.

We didn't get much done today. It keeps us busy keeping warm, taking care of the stock, car and pipes. Dad started a fire in the circulator which he put up in the utility room, so the electric pump and pipes don't freeze. In spite of that he is going around now draining all water. The radio said it would get to 4 degrees.

Dad did find some time to plane some of the cedar boards for the linen closet. I churned and baked a double batch of peanut butter cookies.

The children aren't here yet and I don't think they will come. The roads must be pretty bad over Shades Mountain. I don't believe the busses will even try it. it seems odd in a way that a snow like that would cause so much inconvenience but we aren't prepared for snow here. The school closed today. I saw the Brazier children having a good time in it. I am enjoying it too.

Jan.24. Saturday

It got down to 16. The weather report was away off But it sleeted sometime during the night. Johnnie came in last night by way of Calera. The girls didn't come. The roads were bad so Johnnie and I didn't even try to go to Mass this morning.

Most of the day was spent taking care of the stock. Dad and Johnnie went out in the woods to look for the six yearlings. They found them and were able to bring in five, but Bailey's cow was with them, and it is so wild. She kept running and our wild one went with her. They won't be able to find anything to eat for there is 4 inches of snow.

Dad went into town and bought groceries and Johnnie chopped wood. I cooked and did up the house work.

Jan. 25. Sunday.

This morning Mr. Carlyle came for the milk and asked Dad if he would help him with one of his yearlings. It had gotten caught in some wire and was down all night and was so cold he couldn't get it up.

It seemed like Dad worked all day with the stock and etc.

This afternoon he made a feeder for the chickens. I have two in the house in a box with frost bitten feet. This morning and yesterday there were several with pink feet but these two were hobbling around so I brought them in. I'm proud that i still have 94. They are getting so big! Johnnie studied quite a lot today. He is going to have a test tomorrow. Last week he got the second highest grade in Economics and was among fourteen who got a passing grade in a

class of 41 in accounting. He had a ride back to Auburn today with a boy who brought his wife to the college here. Maybe this ride will be good for every week end now.

Jan.26. Monday

Today was just one of those days when you get nothing done. Most of the snow melted and it is slushy and messy out.

I mended and churned.

Dad went to Montevallo and worked on the cedar boards upstairs.

Jan. 27 Tuesday This was our 25th wedding anniversary

Jan 28 Wednesday

Jan 29 Thursday.

We have been working upstairs the past three days. Have the linen closet finished and are working on the closet in our room. We are lining them with cedar and there is a lot of work to it. Dad saws the board. They aren't edged. Then he planes the edges and glues them. If he had the proper tools it wouldn't be half so hard, but we decided to do the best we can with what we have. I sanded the cedar linen closet out and put putty in all the nail holes and cracks. Now I will have to resand it. It really looks quite nice.

Today I didn't do so much as I had a stomach ache. Guess it was the white meat. Have been working on contests this winter but haven't clicked yet. According to the law of averages I ought to win sometime. Received a letter from Jan this week. They had a good time playing in the snow last week end. They seemed to have had a very full week end, so guess they didn't miss coming home too much.

Jan 30. Friday

It rained practically all day today. Dad worked on a closet and I cleaned the house.

Johnnie got in a half hour before the girls did tonight. The girls' bus broke down again and they had to get a taxi from Calera. The girls were glad to get home. It was two weeks since they were here. They had a lot to tell.

Jan. 31 Saturday

The girls and Johnnie went to Mass this morning.

Janice and Johnnie went out to see if they could bring in the wild man which was in Carlyle's field with one of Bailey's cows. They didn't get it before dinner so went out again after dinner and they managed to drive them out to the haystack. Johnnie was on Fox and Janice walked, they had lots of fun.

Betts finished up a red bolero dress for Janice and cut out and sewed and fitted a dark green gaberdine for her. They both are pretty. I am going to have her make me one too, a cotton I think.

Dad worked on a closet all day. he and Johnnie cut up a little wood tonight.

The sun came out today. It felt so good. It has been over two weeks without the sun shining.

The girls, Johnnie, and I played a new kind of Rummey tonight. Dad read.

Feb 1 Sunday

Dad went over to see Peddie this morning in the car and Johnnie rode Fox over to see the oats. it was 12:30 when Dad got back so we ate dinner without Johnnie. He didn't get here until 1:15 Bill Carlyle rode over on his horse today to see Dad. Betts wants a horse so bad but doesn't feel like she can have one just now. Janice went for a ride and when she came back she said she just loved to ride.

The girls went back to Fairfield on the bus and Johnnie to Auburn.

Feb.2. Monday

Well the old Groundhog saw his shadow today. If I thought we were to have 6 more weeks like the two just passed I don't think I could stand it.

Dad and the two colored boys hauled in a straw stack and put it in the hay mow. The yearlings ate us out of all the hay we had the past two weeks. They will have to eat straw now until the green pasture comes on. Dad thinks these two boys are really trying to please.

I churned, painted the woodwork around the place where we get up into the attic and sanded on a closet. I don't like to do that kind of work at all.

Dad is upstairs cutting out cedar boards for our window screens. We are going to make out an order for our garden seeds to Hastings tonight.

Feb 3 Tuesday

Dad went to Melton's Mill today and got his load of cedar to take to Birmingham tomorrow. He started the boys on some fence

I raked in the front yard this afternoon. It was so warm and sunny I wanted to get outdoors a while. This morning I sanded on the closet. I intend to work a while on the closet and work a while in the yard. That way maybe I won't get so tired of sanding.

Feb 4 Wednesday

Dad was started for Birmingham by 7:30 this morning. Mr. Carlyle went with him. The boys worked on fence until twenty minutes until eleven o'clock. It started raining so they went home. I worked on the front lawn this morning and mended this afternoon.

Dad got home about 10'clock with groceries. He got \$183.73 for this load of cedar. Sold 50 posts this morning to a man from Calera which netted \$16.50

It rained all afternoon and got dark early tonight.

Feb 5 Thursday

Dad worked on the cedar about all day today. I puttied this afternoon. It is lots of work, sometimes I wish we weren't having cedar closets.

Feb 6 Friday

This morning Dad went up to Carlyle's to help him load two pigs. He is taking them to Columbiana to be butchered, dressed and cured. We are buying one half of one hog.

Dad worked upstairs all day. I cleaned the house and then swept up his mess of cedar curls. Today grain dropped and the stock market went down. Mr. Melton was here, he was worried about his affairs. He has his store and two houses for sale. Johnnie was supposed to get a ride to Montevallo. Dad left here at 7:15 and it is after 8 now and they aren't coming yet. Poor Dad, he hates to wait, so. The girls are not coming in tonight.

Feb 7 Saturday.

It was raining this morning and I don't like to drive the car as it stalls so I didn't go to Mass this morning. Johnnie didn't come last night. He must have changed his mind. The girls came out on the 3 o'clock bus. Dad met them. Janice bought herself a new rain coat. it is a light green. Now she really has that new look. It is real long and tapers down in the back. They had lots of news. There has been a lot of changes and advancements in Betty's office.

Feb 8 Sunday

It rained practically all day. Girls left at 4. Did chores early. Read.

Feb 9 Monday

Rained again today. Found 3 dead chickens this morning. I think they were smothered to death. Killed one to eat so I have only 90 left.

Also found a dead pig tonight.

The weather has been bad for so long. I think that is why it died. It was a runt.

Dad cut cedar all day for screens. I churned and worked on a closet for awhile.

Feb 10 Tuesday

Dad has all the wood cut for the screens and is starting on another closet. I worked a long time today on the sanding and have one closet almost in shape. Another day should see it finished I think.

Another dead chicken this morning. That means we have 89 now. It is discouraging. The weather isn't quite so cold tonight. Maybe they won't huddle so together. They get trampled. Tonight we brought in one of Rosie's pigs. It is another runt and was starving to death. We have it in a box with straw and covered with a sack. We fed it twice already and will feed it again before we go to bed. We had to wake it up to feed it. I think there is a good chance of saving it.

Some of the yearlings look pretty sassy. Poor George is a sad sack if there ever was one. Bill Carlyle was here today. He said he had a calf that was going to die. I do wish the sun would come out and stay there. We have been having more than our share of bad weather and we are not too well organized yet. Will we ever be???

Bill butchered, or had it done I should say, two hogs. We took 1/2 of one. I don't know what to do with the head. We have a nice lot of spare ribs, bones, pork chops, sausage, liver and pigs feet. The hams and bacon are being cured. We will have quite a lot on hand but I will let the girls take some home with them next week. Have the frigidaire turned to its highest point.

Going to work on contests.

Feb 11 Ash Wednesday

Rain, Rain, Rain. Still having miserable weather. it has been lightening tonight so maybe Spring is around the corner, but the corner is a mighty wearisome one.

Finis, Finis the closet is finished! Dad has enough lumber ripped out for a second clothes closet. We both worked upstairs today.

I fixed the pigs feet today, that is cleaned them. We are going to have them in a mess of beans tomorrow. I cut what I could off the head to grind up and then I took the head out and hung it from the chicken roost for the chickens to eat.

we still have the little pig in the house. it is much better. Dad calls it Felix.

Feb 12 Thursday

It was very mild all day and warm. It rained off and on. The poor cows and yearlys hate the mud. I do too. Sometimes I think I can't endure this weather much longer.

Dad planed boards today while I sanded the old trim. After dinner we put the ceiling in Betty's closet. The first closet was ours.

Feb 13 Friday

Dad worked upstairs all day and I cleaned the house up.

It rained torrents today and is raining now. Dad went to meet the bus the children are coming in on.

My garden seeds came today. The weeping forsythia is blooming. All the bulbs are up and have been for a long time. Some of the buds are beginning to come on now too.

I've had Johnnie's bed spread out on the line over a week trying to get it to dry. Today the wind blew hard and the spread is covered with yellow clay. i've got it soaking in the tub.

Sometimes i feel like tying a red rag on my head and running.

Feb 14 Saturday

All went to Mass this morning. Stayed a little while after Mass and talked to Father Aucoin. He wanted to fill in a census card.

Dad worked on the closet, Johnnie on the combine. Then they both sawed wood. Betty worked on a gray suit for herself. Janice didn't come home last night. She had a date for a dance on Sat. with Billie.

Feb 15 Sunday.

This afternoon late Mr. and Mrs. Smythers came out to see Dad. They brought Janice and Bobbie Freeman, their little nephew with them. Janice went out and got Fox in and gave Bobbie a ride and Mr. Smythers took a ride too. Of course Janice had to show how she could ride.

They took the girls back to Birmingham with them. Dad had to take Johnnie to Montevallo to meet his ride.

it was late and dark when we got our chores done.

Feb 16 Monday

Dad went out and looked up some corn. We are short on feed. He is getting it from Mr. Allright

and paying \$2.00 a bu. When he got back he fixed up his truck so he can get the corn tomorrow, and then restacked some lumber on the hill.
I worked on the closet today.

Feb 17 Tuesday

Dad got the corn and took it up to Nixes to get it ground. He then worked on the garage roof putting on shingles.
I worked on the lawn.

Feb 18 Wednesday

Dad went to Thorsby to get some lumber we had dressed. He made it in two loads, 3168 feet of tongue and groove. it came to \$25.11 to have it dressed. He took Nate with him. Jim worked on the fence line clearing.
Worked on lawn again today. The little pig Felix is much, much better today. We sold four of the male pigs at \$9 apiece. We will butcher Felix for ourselves. The 5 females will be bred.

Feb. 19. Thursday.

Dad stacked tongue and groove in the front room this morning and stacked lumber out on the hill all afternoon. it is hard work.
I worked on the lawn all day today after my house work was finished. It is all I can do to stagger around tonight.
We've been looking for Wally Mahler all week. Recd. a card the first of the week saying he would see us soon if he didn't lose his way. He is on his vacation in Louisiana.

Feb 20 Friday.

Dad finished stacking the lumber and worked on his tractor today.
I cleaned the house. it rained last night and I'm glad that I worked on the lawn all week. The yard looks nice.
The bus went by the house tonight. When the road is bad the bus goes by way of Calera. But Dad had to go to Montevallo to meet Johnnie.

Feb 21 Saturday

Went to Mass this morning. Got groceries before we came home. When we go to church I don't get anything done but the dishes, bed made up and it's time to get dinner.
Made a custard and cake.
Dad moved the pig houses around. He's got it fixed so he can separate the pigs when he wants to. Worked on his tractor again and sawed for another closet. I sanded this afternoon. Betty worked on her suit and Janice washed Johnnie's rain coat. Johnnie worked on his combine. I'm tired tonight. It rained all most all day today. Someone is going to pop corn pretty soon. Everyone is listening to the radio.
(end of book IV)

Feb. 22. Sunday

Nothing much happened today. Big dinner as usual. Johnnie studied and the girls fooled around. The girls caught the bus out in front this evening instead of going in to Montevallo. Tonight when I brought the calves in Honey was missing. I went out and looked for her but I couldn't find her. We brought in the 6 yearlings from across the creek and two strange Jerseys. We couldn't get Bailey's cow out.

Feb 23. Monday

No mail today. I miss the paper. it was cloudy and cool today. Dad worked on his pig houses and pigs about all day. I didn't seem to get much done today except a little washing. Dad also went out and looked for Honey. He was in the creek drowned, about 60 feet this side of the swimming hole.

Feb 24. Tuesday

Dad worked out in the fields with Nate and Jim (Negroes) on the fence all day. I worked on the lawn. About 3 o'clock Wally drove in on his way back to Chicago. He looks the same and is a very nice boy I think.

Feb 25. Wednesday

Dad worked on fence again with the boys. Wally got up at 9:30. Sat around and talked with him. In the afternoon. We went out to see the old graveyard on the place. There is one stone dated 1826. Then we went to the swimming hole out on the hill where the equipment is and then down to the place where we went swimming all last summer. Had fried chicken, some of our first for dinner and more for supper. I think Walley is enjoying himself. I am enjoying him. He went to La Fayette, La to see two of his G.I. friends.

Feb 26. Thursday.

Dad worked on fence again today.

Walley got up late and then went for a ride on Fox. I worked on the lawn. When he got back he wanted something to do so I had him level off the floor in the garage. The fill we had on the ground before the concrete goes in had to be leveled off.

Chicken again for dinner. Dad and Wally talked a lot tonight and looked at pictures.

Feb. 27 Friday.

Dad worked on fence. They quit early so Dad had the boys pick up some of the stones lying around in the yard and put them on the truck and haul them away. Then he and Walley finished shingling the roof of the garage.

I cleaned the house and made a Midnight cake. The girls and Johnnie came in tonight. They spent the evening getting acquainted with Walley. When Dad and Walley went to meet Johnnie Walley got 6 pints of ice cream.

Feb 28. Saturday.

Drove Walley's car to Mass. it is wonderful to ride in a decent car. Johnnie went to the dentist

while Bett and I got the groceries and laundry. Got cabbage plants and seed potatoes also. Came home to find Walley on the tractor plowing the garden. We all had breakfast then to work. Johnnie, Betty and I planted lettuce, carrots, turnips, cholirabbi, radishes, peas, beans, and set out a rhubarb plant and 50 cabbage plants. Dad and Wally worked on the shingles on the front of the house. Jan went riding on Fox.

We were all tired tonight and everyone is going to bed early.

Feb 29 Sunday

Wally and Janice cut up the seed potatoes and Dad planted them this morning. Bett and I cleaned two chickens for dinner.

Had a late dinner about 1 o'clock.

The day went fast. It was beautiful outside. Just fooled around and talked. Girls left on bus as usual and Johnnie had to go to Calera to catch his. Wally took him. He is crazy about Wally's car. It makes him want one real bad.

Mar. 1 Monday.

Wally had breakfast with us this morning then started for home. He was just a small boy when we came to Alabama to live so we really didn't know what he would be like. Everyone liked him real well and we all enjoyed having him. Now maybe some of the rest will come to see us.

Dad drove to Columbiana today to clear up different businesses. I worked on the lawn. It rained most of the afternoon so we did up our chores early and had an early supper.

Mar. 2. Tuesday

Dad worked on closets and went to look for bobbed wire but couldn't find any. Went way over to Jemison and Calera. The boys didn't come today because it was too wet.

I worked on the lawn and cleaned out one row of onions.

The man came for two of the little pigs. We sold for \$9 and one for \$10. We have five females left which we will breed and the runt which we will butcher.

Mar 3. Wednesday.

It rained practically all day today. Dad worked on closets and after I had breakfast dishes done up I went back to bed. Had another spell with my stomach. Dad got his lunch and I got up around three o'clock. I managed to get a little supper for us and do up the dishes.

Mar. 4. Thursday

The colored boys were here at 7 this morning. They cleared across the road today. Dad worked with them. They accomplished quite a lot.

I mended a little today and then went to see if I could find all the calves. They didn't all come in last night. They were all there and all right. I then took a walk in the woods to see where the new fence is to be and to see where they are clearing. It all is so interesting. On the way back Dad came with me and we brought the cows in. Mary had her calf. It is a pretty calf. Has a Herford head but built like a Jersey. Dad carried it in his arms, old Mary following right along. She wasn't the least bit worried. Did up our chores early.

Mar. 5. Friday.

The men worked on fence until it rained and then went in early. I cleaned the house. Johnnie didn't come home tonight. He has school tomorrow.

Mar 6 Saturday

It was pouring down rain this morning so the girls and I didn't go to church.

Betty didn't feel well so went back to bed.

Dad worked on the cedar upstairs. I did up work and baked two chocolate pies.

Mar. 7 Sunday.

Bett and I cleaned 3 fryers. We wanted plenty so they could take some home with them for their supper and lunch.

The weather is getting a little nicer. When Dad took the girls to Montevallo to the bus I went along and we drove over to Richards. They weren't home but I enjoyed the drive. It has been a long time since we went for a drive.

The jonquils are blooming to beat the band. There are literally hundreds of them. Jan picked two large bouquets to take back with them, one for herself and one for Mrs. Sadler.

Mar. 8. Monday.

Dad and the boys worked on fence. Dad also went to see Mr. Richards about the line fence. He wants to put a piece in that adjoins both farms. He talked to Mrs. Richards first. They are doing what we are doing here, only not on quite as big a scale. She doesn't like the country and hopes they sell which they will if they get their price. John just laughed at her and told her how bad it was here

I didn't seem to get much done today. Hoed in the garden a little, and it was still too wet. So raked a little and dug up some garlic that was in the yard, and threw it away.

Dad goes to Montevallo every day to see if he can get some wire. He was lucky and got 3 rolls of hog wire which cost \$12.50 a roll, today. It is hard to get.

Mar.9. Tuesday.

Men worked on fence again today. I hoed in the garden and it went a little better today

We received a nice letter from Wally today He says maybe his brother Johnnie will be down to see us in a month. Gertrude is talking of coming then too, but i hope they come different weeks, for I don't know how I would manage if Johnnie brought Grace and the two children.

Mar. 10. Wednesday.

The men are working on some fence back of the house now. This piece of fence goes around what will be our orchard. It is supposed to be put in in February. There isn't an apple tree on the place. We want everything in it. Two sour red cherries, 1 white cherry and 1 dark blood red large chery. About 4 peach trees, 4 apple trees, an apricot, a plum, some grapes and some boysenberries. i think that covers everything.

I hoed in the garden today, cleaned Dad's mess up upstairs, churned and picked a beautiful big

bouquet of jonquils. Put them in a flower basket and have them on the table.

Mar 11. Thursday.

I cleaned the house today.

Dad worked on fence. Dad went to Maylene to see if he could get wire. Mr. Brantley said he would have some in a few days and he should get his from Mr. Richards and then pay him back. Richards had gotten around a dozen rolls from him.

Mar. 12. Friday.

Dad went to Richards and he let him have two rolls. That is all he needed for the time being. I didn't get much done today. Washed my hair and put it up on pin curls. Janice generally puts my hair up for me but thought I would see if I could manage it myself. Bett and Jan didn't come home tonight. Nor Johnnie either.

Mar. 13. Saturday

I didn't go to church because I was afraid the car would stall on me.

Dad fired Nate and Jim yesterday. It was cold and they didn't want to work. So he told them if they didn't want to work they could go in but they were through. I wasn't that cold at all. Dad worked outside all day by himself on fence. He has the yearlings over on this side now. At last that particular piece of fence is complete.

Went to the dentist this morning in Fairfield and came out here on the 3 o'clock bus. Jan was going to stay there. After supper tonight we were sitting around the fire and were just thinking about doing the dishes, when the 7:15 bus stopped and Janice came tripping in. She changed her mind she said. She brought some good candy with her.

Mar. 14. Sunday

Had chicken again today. Fixed three again so there would be plenty for the girls to take some back with them.

Dad went to Bailey's to tell him he was going to start putting fertilizer on the oats Monday and he should get his cow that has been here long before Xmas. He sold it to him for \$100. It is a registered Hereford and is due to have a calf in May. It is wild as the very deuce and he knew he would have trouble getting it out, the reason for selling. He had been over a couple of times and tried to get it, but it always runs back in the woods.

I think Dad got a real bargain that time! I hope the calf will be a bull calf then we will have a registered bull.

Janice and Betty take a few pictures most every week-end. Betty took one of the jonquils. Jan picked a huge bouquet for herself and Mrs Sadler. Mrs. Sadler is going to have a party this week.

We drove the girls to the bus then went out in woods. I wanted to see where the new fence runs as it wasn't quite clear in my mind just where it went.

Mar. 15. Monday.

Dad started to put the soda on the oats this morning. After dinner I said if he wanted me to help

him I would. Of course he did, so I carried the dishes out in a hurry, didn't even stack them, put the food away, and away we went. Toward the last I got so tired I could hardly walk so I fixed some paper sacks and lay down and took a sunbath until Dad was ready to come in. We did up the chores and were getting ready to eat when Kent Bottenfield drove in. So I put on an extra plate and he ate with us. His Grandmother is quite sick again. I think that was why he stopped, so he could tell us. He was on his way to the college to see his girl friend.

Mar 16. Tuesday.

I did up the dishes and other work and then, after the mail had come, I went out in the field to help put the fertilizer on again. We came in at noon. Fixed something to eat and rested a bit, left the dishes and went out again. We finished up what was to be done here on this place. We have 25 acres here and still have 23 acres to do, which we have leased. it started to pour down rain just as we finished.

Mar. 17. Wednesday

Dad went to Calera at 8 o'clock this morning to meet Johnnie. He hasn't been home for two weeks and now he gets one week off between quarters. Someone is going to register for him for the next quarter. He had his last exam yesterday at 9 o'clock P.M. and then got up at 3 this morning to start home. As a result he looked all dragged out and spent the day sleeping and resting.

Dad and I put the day in on the shingles for a change. it makes me itch to keep at it. A week of steady work would easily see it finished

Mar.18. Thursday

johnnie and Dad spent the day over at the rented land putting ama-dol on the oats. Dad has already tumbled into bed and and Johnnie is resting by the fire. I'm so glad that job is over. I cleaned the house and went out in the woods and gathered a lovely bouquet of redbud. hoed a little in the garden and piddled my time away. As a result I'm in the dumps tonight.

Mar 19. Friday

Dad and I worked on shingling all day. Completed the front of the part of the house. It looks beautiful to me.

Johnnie started to clean the barn out, got one stall finished. He rested all afternoon. Guess yesterday wore him out and anyway he isn't very interested. He has 10 days vacation between quarters.

Betty came home alone tonight. Jan stayed over to get a permanent.

Mar 20 Saturday

Betty and I went to Mass this morning. Went to Communion. We won't have Mass again now until the 17th of April. The girls get back from their spring vacation to the college then.

Everything revolves around the college.

Dad and I shingled again all day or until 3 o'clock. Now the house proper is complete as far as the shingles go It probably will be a long time before we get to the utility room and garage as

plowing time is now upon us.

Betty sewed. Is making a cotton dress for me. Tailored, lime green stripe on white background. Johnnie just fooled around.

After we finished shingling, Dad and I took the shingle cutter over to Spring Creek Church. They are shingling their little church. It looks nice. I enjoyed the ride very much. Hadn't been on that road yet and the woods are beautiful now with the green coming out and the redbud. Jan came on the 3 o'clock bus

Mar.21. Sunday

Had chicken for dinner again. I killed the chickens myself. It is the first time I ever rung their necks.

Dad and I walked out in the woods today. He is getting ready to do some clearing and he wanted to show me what he is planning on doing.

People stopped for posts. We don't have any ready now. Are too busy with farming for the time being. Sold 6 fryers for \$1.20 a piece to the people. They were from Ensley.

Girls left this afternoon. Managed to lay down and rest and read awhile today.

Mar 22. Monday

Johnnie went to Birmingham on the 10 o'clock bus to shop.

Dad disked up the place in the garden where I wanted to set out strawberry plants and I planted them.

Then because it started to rain he worked on Betty's cedar closet. After lunch, he hauled manure out of the barn and spread it on the field across the road where he intends to put in corn. I drove the truck for him. There is so much to be done on farm work now that we won't get back to the house for a long time.

Mar 23 Tuesday

Johnnie got his things together to go back to school. He left around 2 o'clock for Calera and caught the bus there for Auburn. Dad and I both drove him to Calera.

Dad worked on fence all day otherwise. I went out and moved a pile of brick out of his way and he cleared a plum thicket out of the fence row.

Mar 24 Wednesday

Worked on fence today. I helped tamp posts.

Mar 25 Thursday

I went out in the woods this morning to check on the yearlys. They were all there and looked to be in fine condition. Gathered myself a bouquet of dogwood and redbud.

Dad worked on fence all day again. I helped tamp posts in the afternoon.

Having lovely weather the last two days. The redbud and plum blossoms are exceptionally pretty this spring.

Mar 26 Friday

John worked out in the barn all day today shoveling manure. I cleaned the house.
Bett, Jan and Johnnie came home as usual.

Mar 27 Saturday

I worked all morning. Fixed chicken, baked a cake and boiled up potatoes and made a custard. Thought I would try preparing tomorrow's dinner today and see how it worked. Beside I want to try and go to Mass at Straven tomorrow. There will be Mass at 11o'clock there. We didn't have any at Montevallo today.

Jan and Betty worked out on the hill with Dad. I didn't find time to go out and see what they were doing but they said they accomplished quite a lot. The piled brush. Dad worked on fence. Janice always helps with the chores on weekends. She seems to enjoy it thoroughly for she likes animals. Betty sewed on a rose colored blouse for herself to go with a new gray gaberdine suit she made for herself. Johnnie helped around a little. He seems to be in a dither about something, what it is I don't know. Maybe is just tired of working. Most of us get that way sometimes.

I boiled 5 eggs in onion peels today for Janice. Had forgotten to get some dye and she wanted colored eggs for tomorrow

.

Mar 28 Sunday

It turned quite cold last night and what with our old car I was afraid to try to go to Straven. It seems awful not to go to church on Easter.

Dad had to go out and chop up some wood again. We have been doing without fire now for better than a week but we had fire all day today.

After the breakfast dishes were done up Janice and I went out and dug up 3 redbud trees in the woods and planted them in the yard. The hard rain we had on Thurs. spoiled all the blossoms. Our garden is coming along nicely and the potatoes are up now too.

Foiled around, read etc. until time to take the children to the bus station. Have started a new book, "The Arch of Triumph."

Mar 29 Monday

Dad hired a new Negro today. He started out like a ball of fire and did just exactly what he was told to do, and did a lot. He cleared and piled brush from the tenant house (foundation is all that is there) and followed around the creek. He had a lot of chopping to do and accomplished quite a lot. Each one we hire we hope will be good enough to build a house for but they all seem to be false alarms. Maybe this one will be the right man.

Dad is still clearing out the barn.

I burned a large pile of brush today that the girls stacked Saturday.

This morning we had a frost and the beans and potatoes are black. i don't know much about such things so don't know if they are ruined or not. This is what the natives call blackberry winter.

To bed to read a while before I go to sleep.

Mar 30 Tuesday

At last John finished cleaning his barn today, so while he went out for some fresh straw to strew around the stalls I sprayed it for him with DDT. it looks so nice now.

Also burned another pile of limbs up on the hill, where they are clearing. I wanted to burn more but it got so windy I was afraid it might catch fire to the shed with all the equipment and fuel oil.

The new negro's name is James Hicks. he still is going strong. I wish we could keep him.

Received a letter and snapshots from Walter today.

Mar 31 Wednesday

it rained hard last night, thundered and lightnined, and I didn't even wake up. The colored boy didn't come because it would be too wet to work on clearing.

Dad worked on one of the closets and I transplanted some bushes and pulled weeds around the house. After lunch he cleaned out the drums for gas and oil and worked on his tractor and I burned brush. I was so tired I staggered into the house tonight. After supper we went out to see how the fires were and we piled one of them, heaping high with more limbs, then we had to watch that before we could come in. I came in ahead of Dad and did up the dishes then we both went out again. Just finished our showers.

Old Germany, Maggie, and their son came in today and asked if they could go fishing. I think he wanted something but didn't quite get around to asking.

April 1 Thursday

The woods were still wet after the rain but Dad got the brush pile started and we both worked burning brush all day. it rained lightly off and on all day but James continued to work in the rain as we did. He is still clearing. I thoroughly enjoyed it and one can see how nice the pasture will be. We are going to plant a permanent pasture.

April 2 Friday

James didn't come until noon today. He said he overslept but that sounds pretty thin to me. We think maybe he went to collect unemployment pay for he was out of a job when we hired him.

He cleared all afternoon. He helped Dad clear off the hill. They didn't get it finished.

Johnnie didn't come home tonight but the girls did.

April 3 Saturday

After breakfast Janice went out and helped Dad on fence. Betty sewed a peach colored cotton dress she is making for herself. I did up the work and fixed a chicken for tomorrow. Bett did the shopping.

After diner I went out and started to burn some brush. Started three fires and it went so fast before I knew the whole area around was on fire Jan came to see what I was doing. I told her I thought I could take care of it but to tell Dad to come and take a look He made himself and Jan a pine brush broom and beat it out on the edge. it really was something for awhile but it is easier than the way we had been doing However Dad is deathly afraid of fire. His gas and equipment were not so far off.

Think I shall go to bed early and read.

April 4 Sunday

Today was a beautiful day. This morning we put on our boots (Betts and I had on the boots) Dad and Jan took off their shoes and we herded the seven calves on this side of the creek, across. Now we have 21 calves in that pasture and the registered cow which is due to have a calf in May. They are all in good shape and most of them are prime beef.

I set out two honeysuckle bushes and a tree today. It really was a day to spend in the woods! The girls left as usual. Mrs. Brazier came after the milk tonight and I had a short visit with her. Time for radio and my book.

April 5 Monday.

Dad and James worked on fence. After I cleaned up the house I went out and stacked lumber where the fire had been on Saturday. Didn't get it all cleared up. After lunch (it rained hard at noon) I went out and pulled weeds in the garden, for my fires were out. It rained hard again so I came in and did some mending.

Dad saw Mr. Baker today in Montevallo. He has three calves for us.

A Mr. Rucker was here today. He bought Carlyle's place. He came to see about the line fence between our places across the road. You know I wish someone would come along and want to buy this place. I'm down in the dumps tonight and so tired of living this way.

April 6. Tuesday

It rained hard yesterday evening so the colored boy didn't come today.

Dad worked on Johnnie's closet. I did some mending and transplanted some bulbs. After Dinner we both went upstairs and started putting the sheet rock on in Johnnie's room. Dad had to go in and get the seed corn too, this morning. He talked to Mr. Bailey who has his farm up for sale and has a deal on right now too. Jones also had a chance to sell his farm so we heard. it makes me want to sell this place so bad! I Guess I'll go to bed and read, maybe I'll feel better tomorrow.

Received a note from C. Datzman. Stella, his wife died and I had written a note to him.

April 7 Wednesday

The men cleaned the hill up. That is, restacked the boards or lumber I should say and the posts. They are getting that field ready to plow. I burned 3 stacks of brush. It was hard work for it was all so green. Dad plowed about an hour.

April 8 Thursday

The men started clearing on the hill in the field across the road. Made good headway. Worked there all day. I burned brush.

April 9 Friday

James burned and cleaned up across the road again today. He is a good Negro. Wish we could keep him all the time. Dad helped me finish burning the brush and then got back to the plowing again for about an hour.

We spent the morning checking up on the yearlings. Prima and one of the black ones were out

on the other side of the fence where they would get into the oats. Found the place where they got out and Dad fixed the place while I went to count the rest. They were all there and in fine condition. Susie Que and Petit are real beauties now. Even George was looking good. When I was looking for them I stumbled onto a holly bush that was partly torn out of the ground. I managed to get it up with a good long root so brought it back and planted it. Jan came in on the 7:15 bus Johnnie the 9:20 at Calera. Betty will come tomorrow afternoon. She is to have a wisdom tooth pulled in the morning.

April 10 Saturday

James wanted to work today for he had lost one day this week due to rain. So he cleared as usual.

Dad plowed until noon. Then it rained cats and dogs so James went home and Dad put sheet rock up in Johnnie's room with his help

Jan and I cleaned the chicken house this morning. She is a good worker. I made a devil's food cake for her birthday which was last Thursday. We had whipped cream on it and ice cream.

Johnnie, for once found something he really liked and he got a stomach ache. We gave her a nice half slip that she wanted for this summer

Bett got home OK. It was pouring! Jan had to take a pair of shoes and an umbrella out to meet her. She stepped out of her good shoes into the old ones so she wouldn't get mud on them Sat up late and finished my book tonight.

April 11. Sunday

Late breakfast. Got dinner under way and then Johnnie and I went out in the woods and got two dogwood and one sweet gum tree. We planted them right away. Dad made nests for the chickens. They are almost five months old now I can hardly wait until they begin to lay. It will be wonderful to have all the eggs one wants to use in cooking. We have oodles of milk, plenty for the pigs too. Are eating chicken so often it isn't a treat any more and the garden is coming along nicely. Have had onions and radishes already. The garden needs plowing bad but the ground is too wet to plow.

Heard that Hilred B. was sick as well as her mother. Must send them cards.

Mr. Jameson came to see Dad about combining his oats and clover. Mr. Nix comes first, the Rucker's kiled peas, then he will take care of Jameson if it isn't too late. Of course our oats come first.

The girls went back to Birmingham as usual and Johnnie off to school.

Started a new book, "Winter Wheat" which is very good and I'm anxious to get to it after I take my shower.

April 12. Monday.

Today James put in the rest of the garden and I helped. We put in beans, peas, sweet corn, pop corn, peanuts, parsley, lettuce, radishes, melons, beans, pole and bush, and even celery. If only half of it grows we will have oodles to eat. James is a good worker and he made a beautiful job of it I think. He used Ada to plow the rows. Had to go to town to get a piece for the plow first.

Dad went to see if he could get Peddie to do some hauling for him but he is working for the

Alabama Power Co. now. He plowed today too. He finished the piece back of the house and has started on the piece across the road.

April 13 Tuesday

James finished a little plowing he had to do in the garden then went to clearing. Dad plowed and went to town for groceries. By noon it started to rain so the men put the rest of the sheet-rock in Johnnie's room.

Today I was so engrossed in my book i couldn't put it down. So didn't do anything except get the meals, and clean a chicken for tomorrow. By 4 o'clock I began to feel guilty so I went out and got a beautiful sweetgum tree and planted it. Dad doesn't think I got enough root, but I had fun doing it anyway. We are having a lot of rain and it is a good time to transplant things. Must get trees for the front yard now too. I love to dig and transplant things. The woods are beautiful, so many different shades of green. The creek is high tonight and it's still raining out. I feel so secure tonight. I love to hear the rain on the roof and window panes.

Am going to bed now and finish "Winter Wheat." I wish it were longer, or another book to continue the story.

April 14. Wednesday

Dad cleared all day today across the road. After I did up the dishes and put a chicken in the oven I went out to help him. It was 10 o'clock and I worked until 11:15 and then I came in ahead and finished up the dinner. After dinner I did up the dishes and went out and stayed until it was time to come in and do the chores We brought the cows in as we came home. It really shows up what we did. We cleared more than an acre I'm sure, but I hardly think it was quite two. I enjoyed it and wasn't too tired tonight.

Am going to hem my dress tonight. Am leaving all the hems down in my clothes to acquire the New Look. I'm way behind everyone else. Most of the time I look like a peasant around here with my 3 cornered scarf on my head. Since it is warmer I wrap it around and tie it in front.

April 15 Thursday

James came today and cleared along the fence. Dad and I cleared in the back part of the field. Didn't cook so much today There was chicken and other things left over from yesterday so I worked right along with Dad. Came in early tonight though. Burning makes me more tired than piling. Guess it is the heat.

We look around and say how beautiful the woods are and keep on chopping it down and pushing it back. I told Dad we could feed our souls on the beauty of the neighbors woods and we would plant grain on our soil and make money and feed our stomachs.

April 16. Friday

This morning James and Dad cleared. I cleaned the house up and after dinner I went out and helped pile brush and burn it. We set a large area on fire and had a real forest fire. It was pretty to watch. it makes it so much easier to pick up limbs after the cedar and pine needles have burned off and it breaks up into smaller limbs and pieces which are easier to handle.

No letter from Johnnie so he won't be home this weekend. The girls came as usual. Betts had

lots to tell us as she always does. There are a lot of changes going on in her department.

April 17 Saturday

Went in to Mass but there was no one there so we came home had breakfast and Betty went back later to do the shopping. Jan went out to check on the yearlings. The last time Dad checked there were five missing. Well, she could find only 8 so Betty and I went back with her. We found the place where they got out and followed tracks all the way over to Richards. Asked if they had put them up but Mrs. Richards hadn't seen them. It is the first time I met her. She doesn't like the country. We came back, got some lunch, and then Dad, who had been plowing, went out with us. We walked and walked but never did find them. There are 13 missing and I'm so worried. It is things like this that almost get me down. Hard work doesn't bother me but when one's stock gets out you wonder if you will ever see it again. We are all good and tired tonight. There's one thing though, I get a better picture of the lay of land when I go over it that way. I feel like I know a good bit about Richard's too, now.

James cleared all day.

Mr. Rucker told Dad today he paid \$36000 for Carlyle's place. There are 640 acres less the road. That includes the equipment and 71 head of cattle.

April 18. Sunday.

Dad went out alone this morning to look for the yearlings. Came back a quarter to eleven and hadn't found them. So he and Janice went in the car to see Grady and Richards to see if they were there. The car stalled so they walked back and Betty and Dad went back with the truck. Well, it stalled so they had to get Mr. Grady to pull the car to start it and when it went, they used it to pull the truck. Betty said she couldn't help but laugh. It was just like Tobacco Road. Mr. Grady was so nice and calm and polite, and all those broken down cars and truck.

Had our first lettuce from the garden today. It was delicious. It tasted just like it used to years ago when I was a child living on a farm.

Smythers drove out today Tenna is home with her little son Doug. He is cute. And they brought a little niece and nephew along too. Didn't stay long. The girls drove back with them. They have a new DeSoto Car.

After Smythers left Dad and I again went out to look for the yearlings. We finally found them and it is a real relief. We had no trouble hazing them back home.

Mr. and Mrs. Brasier came after the milk with the 3 little girls tonight. Stayed a short while. Dad is completely worn out tonight. he is already in bed.

April 19 Monday.

Dad plowed all day. James burned brush and cleared. I went out and helped to burn brush after I had my work done. Dad had a flat on the tractor James drove the truck home and dropped the tire off at Wootens. We had trouble with the car again today. How I wish we had a new one.

April 20 Tuesday.

Dad plowed, James cleared today

About 1:30 I started out to haze all the yearlings in so we can sell part of them. That is hard work. They were scattered and by the time I got them in a bunch and had hazed them a ways I came out of the woods and couldn't figure out where I was. I had lost my sense of direction and was going back again. I finally got them out on the road but couldn't get them across the creek. Had to come back for help and started to run and some way kicked my bunion and fell flat on the road. My knee bled and my foot is so sore. Dad and James came and we got them in ok. Then I went down in the other pasture to haze the other bunch up. Got them up here and James came to help me, when the wild cow struck out with two others following. We got the six others in the barn lot. After quitting time tonight the men went out and tried to get the 3 that got away but the wild cow jumped the creek and the others followed her. I'm so tired tonight but the yearlings are sorted now and when Peddie gets here tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock it won't take long to get him on his way. He is taking them in his truck to Montgomery and will bring back fertilizer for the corn.

April 21 Wednesday

Got up early. Dad wanted his breakfast before Peddie got here. He was out fixing the loading ramp when Peddie rolled in 20 minutes until 6 o'clock. By twenty five after 6 they had them loaded. James had taken the truck home last night so he would be here early to help too. Ordinarily he comes on a bike. Dad sent 9 of Johnnie's yearlings, Mary and her calf Tippie, Harold Angels, Esther and Petit. I hated to see Tippie, Harold and Petit go. Mary is so old and it's time to get rid of her and Tippie wouldn't do so well without her. Harold and Esther and Petit were in fine shape and we need a little money right now. I know cattle are to sell and make money on but when you raise them up from little calves you hate to sell them.

James cleared and Dad plowed. He had some trouble with the tractor, had to take a piece in to Montevallo to have it welded. I whipped all the weeds down in the front yard and in the barn lot with the swinging scythe.

Peddie got back early with the fertilizer. There wasn't a market today. They are selling so few now that they sell only Tuesday's and Thursdays. During the winter they sell on every weekday save Saturday.

April 22. Thursday

Today is Dad's birthday. He is 49. Johnnie and Betty renewed "Time" for him and Betty got him a pint of whiskey too. Jan got him a box of "Mountaineers" which came in the mail on Mon. and he opened them and started smoking right away. I ordered 3 pr. work pants, 2 shirts, 6 pr. socks, 2 caps and 2 pr. of gloves for him but the package didn't come yet. He is running here in rags and tatters but doesn't seem to mind.

James cleared today. I went out and helped pile branches for about an hour after dinner. Dad plowed. He got stuck again this afternoon in a wet spot. He was stuck about 3 hours. James had to stop his work and help him. It was 6 o'clock when they got out. James is one real good Negro. We are going to have to let him go tomorrow for we are a little short of money right now. Of all the negroes we tried out and now when we find one we like we have to let him go. Such is life. Things never work out the way you want them to.

April 23. Friday.

Dad plowed this morning. The Check came for the cow and yearlings and we got \$1000 lacking a nickel for the fourteen. Mary brought \$93.01, little Tippie \$21.60 and Harold Angels brought \$69.48. Those are the ones I was especially interested in. We are of the opinion that we should have held them longer but as we made a profit, we can't complain.

We had early lunch and drove to Birmingham so I could go to the dentist. Just had two cavities and he finished me up at one sitting. We went to see Mrs Bottenfield and her mother and got groceries and picked Betty and Janice up and brought them home with us. I enjoyed the day in spite of going to the dentist but am very tired tonight. Jan and Dad drove to Calera to pick Johnnie up and Bett stayed here with me.

April 24 Saturday.

Went to Mass this morning, came back, had breakfast and Johnnie went back to Dr. Orr to the dentist here in Montevallo. I couldn't make my mind up to change dentists but Johnnie had no choice in the matter. At least he thought he didn't. He plowed when he came back and Dad went out to build fence and Janice helped him. Bett sewed and I did up the work. We had our first cottage cheese today for this spring.

Father Aucoin called on us after lunch. He was quite surprised to see the place and what we are doing. He didn't expect anything like this. He is quite young but very nice. In my opinion a more mature person would fill the bill in the missions.

April 25. Sunday

The girls and I drove the yearlings across the creek and brought back some oat straw to put in the chicken nests. I want those hens to lay so bad. They are five months old now and thought they would lay by this time.

Managed to get a nap in today for a change.

Johnnie plowed some this morning. It looks like rain and we are beginning to get behind and Dad worked on fence until noon. After dinner we read and rested. The children went back to their various jobs and school as usual.

April 26 Monday

We have been taking our clothes in to the laundry but today they started a route out in the country and they pick it up at our door now.

It looked like rain all day but has rained just a little this evening. Dad plowed all day and he wants the rain to hold off for a couple of days or so so he can get his disking done.

I set out tomatoes plants, pepper and sweet potatoes plants. Didn't count them but it was a lot and the ground was as hard as a rock. Felt like I didn't do a very good job but I don't like garden work. The garden is so big and there is so much Johnson grass in it, one doesn't know where to begin chopping.

I'm down in the dumps tonight. Guess I worked too hard doing nothing.

April 27 Tuesday.

Dad disked all day. It was hot as all get out today. Didn't do much myself. Made butter, ice

cream and put some bug powder on the potato vines. They were covered with bugs. We have a real good stand of potatoes.

Two men stopped in today and wanted to buy all the sweet gum and sycamore trees. We sold for \$10 a thousand. They will start taking it off as soon as they finish up at Holcomb's.

April 28 Wednesday

I'm trying to clean up a little extra for Johnnie and Grace and their two children are coming sometime the first of next week. It is so dusty and so hard to clean up. We have been here 21 months now and our things are still packed in boxes and our furniture is all upstairs. Dad is still disking.

April 29 Thursday

Still cleaning upstairs. Washed up both bath rooms and polished all the furniture. Dad finished the field across the road and he is hoping it won't rain for a few days yet, so he can plant the corn.

April 30 Friday

Dad planted corn and I cleaned up and down stairs. Washed and set my hair. Jan didn't come home tonight. Stayed over for a dance. Bett and Johnnie came as usual.

May 1 Saturday.

Went to Mass and Bett and I went to Communion. We had car trouble and Father Aucoin had to push us to get started. I vow I'll never take it again! How I wish we could have a new one! Johnnie planted corn. I think he likes to drive the tractor. He had to go in to the dentist again at 4 o'clock; but he is finished there now. Dad hauled the fertilizer for him and he took over when Johnnie went to Montevallo.

We are expecting Johnny Mahler and Grace and their two children Judy and Susan sometime tomorrow from Maywood.

May 2. Sunday. to May 12 Wednesday.

Johnny and family arrived around 1:30 and we didn't have our dinner dishes finished yet. We were so busy the whole week that I didn't find time for my diary until tonight so I'll try to write the high points of the week.

We liked them both. We really didn't know Johnny well as he was quite young when we came to Alabama. He is rather serious and Grace is lots of fun. Gets acquainted easily. The children are both cute little blondes. Johnny got some fishing in and Grace and I went for a walk in the woods. She is crazy about flowers. Took home a cactus plant and small cedar tree. Showed them the falls, the yearlings, the woods and all that is to be seen on a farm. Johnny was extremely interested in everything.

Susan was quite cross all the time they were here and Judy was sick on Friday. Thursday they went to Montgomery to see a friend of Grace.

We stayed up late all week and talked and talked. After the children were in bed, it was easier on Grace, for Susan is only 14 months old and was quite a care.

They told us Walter was fired with ambition when he got back home from here in March. They left early Saturday morning for home both dreading the trip. Janice didn't get to meet them as she stayed over for a dance again and didn't come out until 11 o'clock in the morning. Dad has been disking this week and he worked on a hog house today for it rained yesterday. I painted two gates today. We are getting back into a routine again after our company's departure. Wondering who will come next George says he is coming.

May 13 Wednesday

Dad finished his pig house except for the roof this morning and disked all afternoon. I washed out 25 sacks and stored them away for the grain this morning and mended and darned this afternoon.

Received a bunch of letters from Agnes telling all the news. Also received a note from Grace saying Judy had the measles and that they had an awful trip home.

Mr. Rucker stopped in to return the jack and I talked quite a long time with him. He is the new neighbor up the road. Rosie was out tonight when I went to feed the pigs and hasn't come back yet and it is dark. Hope she turns up tomorrow.

May 15 Saturday

So busy and tired at night that I neglected my diary again Thursday and Friday. Dad disked and finished it. Then he worked on the tractor and planter and planted about 7 acres this afternoon. The girls are home as usual and we all went out and carried the fertilizer for him. He was so late coming in from the field tonight that I went out and milked the cow for him. The first time in my life that I milked and I didn't find it so hard. But I'm not going to make a habit of it-just in an emergency.

May 16 Sunday

This was the easiest and most relaxing Sunday we have had in ages. Just the two girls here. Nice dinner over early and lots of time to read and relax. I feel like I don't have a care in the world yet I know we have a tough row ahead of us to hoe; for the next six months. Hope I'm not being over optimistic.

Jan and I went for a walk in the woods to see if Miss Domino had her calf. She didn't. it is beautiful in the woods but quite hot today. it is raining, a gentle rain and looks like it will rain all night. The corn and garden need rain. Must work in the garden. it doesn't amount to much considering all the seed we planted.

May 17 Monday

Dad planted soy beans all morning and worked on the tractor in the afternoon. I painted a hog house. We are getting ready for pigs which are due the latter part of this week. We have three gilts having them. Also worked in the garden. Feel a little more hopeful about it.

May 18 Tuesday

Dad worked on the tractor all day today. I hoed in the garden, made butter, whipped weeds in the back yard and daily housework as usual.

Received a letter from Gert and Edna. They are planning on coming in June, the first part.

Man here to buy posts. He bought a stack at .23. They are what we call culls.

May 19 Wednesday

Dad worked on a poultry house all day. he is going to build two now and use them to store grain in until this fall, when we get more chickens.

I worked a while in the garden this morning spraying for pests. Painted the hog house a second coat too. After lunch I creosoted the skids that the poultry houses are to stand on. Then hoed a row of peas and a row of strawberries. The garden is beginning to look like something. I'm getting real interested in it. Received a note from Johnnie. he is coming home tomorrow night instead of Friday.

May 20 Thursday

Dad worked in the poultry house all day and I worked in the garden. Johnnie came home tonight. He will miss school tomorrow.

May 21 Friday

Dad and Johnnie both worked on the poultry house and I cleaned the house. Girls came home tonight.

May 22 Saturday

Went to Mass this morning. This will be the last time we have Mass at the College now until next Fall.

Johnnie and Dad worked on the combine today. Mr. Jamison wanted them to combine his clover but they don't have it fixed yet so that is one job they'll miss.

Got the first egg today. I can hardly wait until we get 30 or 40 a day. It will be so nice to be able to bake, make ice cream and use all the eggs I want to.

May 23 Sunday

A day of relaxation. Johnnie went back to school and Jan to Birmingham. Bett is taking a week of her vacation and spending it here. Mr. Nix came over this afternoon and stayed until chore time.

May 24 Monday

This morning when we went out to do our chores the small gilt was missing. We found her in a den she made under some cedar limbs and she already had her pigs-six. So after breakfast Dad got busy and mended up the other two pig houses. I swept them out and sprayed and Bett and I went over to the stack to get some straw. We have the houses ready now for the other two gilts which are to have their pigs any time now. After dinner I burned the limbs where the den was so the pig would stay in the pig house we had for her.

Dad worked on the poultry house all afternoon and I did up odds and ends around. Bett read and played the piano today. She is getting a suntan in the garden.

May 25 Tuesday

Dad finished the poultry house this morning and Bett and I started to paint it. We have almost two sides finished but we ran out of paint.

This morning Bett and I went to Straven to find the Catholic Chapel. We are planning on going to Mass there next Sunday. Then we drove into Montevallo to do a little shopping.

Dad started cultivating corn late this afternoon.

May 2 Wednesday

Dad cultivated all morning and went to Centerville after lunch to get a part he had broken. Bett went with him. She sewed most of the day.

I worked in the garden. The Johnson grass is terrible but I've done a lot and if I can just keep after it, it won't be long until I have the garden in good shape. Planted some muskmelons and watermelons. The others didn't come up.

May 27 Thursday

Dad cultivated all day. I spent the day in the garden and Betty helped some too. We have it whipped in shape some but there are two days work yet at least. Want to put more seeds in when it rains. It has been looking like rain the last few days but we haven't gotten a drop and we need it badly.

The blackberries are beginning to ripen. Maybe I can get Frank and Curtis to pick them for me. There is so much to do and the days aren't long enough.

Betty went shopping in Montevallo today.

May 28 Friday

The first thing this morning Dad went up to Mr. Rucker's to get our cow which he had up there to get bred. After he came home he started to sheetrock the back room down stairs. We are going to have to use it to store grain in, so he had to do it now.

After I did up the breakfast dishes and churned I went to bed, for I had a stomach ache. Think I worked out in the sun too long yesterday. Betty went to Montevallo to get me some aspirin. Stayed in bed until noon, then Betty and I went to Birmingham to stock up on groceries, for we are expecting company from Indiana the second week in June. Thought we would go in while Betty was here to do the driving. Brought Janice out with us. Johnnie didn't come home this week. He will come home some time the later part of next week for good, or I should say for vacation time.

Received a set of 12 plastic red, green, and yellow ice box bowls from Grace in the mail today and some round covers with elastic in the top. They are so pretty and I was real pleased.

Another one of the gilts had her pigs today. She had six too.

May 29 Saturday

Dad worked on his tractor all day. It rained hard yesterday and off and on today too, for which we are very grateful. We needed it so bad.

Betty sewed all day today. She made herself a sun suit, and a pair of pajamas, and finished a dress this week too.

Janice and I worked in the front yard this morning. Got one half of it done. After dinner we

worked in the garden. Got three rows weeded and I transplanted the head lettuce. After the beautiful rain we had it was much easier to pull the weeds.
Am sending Joanne a pair of hose for her graduation from college, which I must wrap tonight.

May 30 Sunday

We hustled around this morning and did up our work as we wanted to go to Mass at Straven. They have a nice little chapel there. Mass was at 11 o'clock and there were even people beside us. Father Aucoin had a nice sermon and I enjoyed the experience. Next Sun. there won't be Mass and then the following Sunday it will be at 7 o'clock. To me this is better than going to Birmingham once or twice during the summer.

Had our dinner prepared before we left so it didn't take long to get it on the table, but it was almost 1 o'clock, for Father didn't start Mass on time.

Spent the afternoon reading and sleeping. The girls and Dad went out to look for Miss Domino but didn't find her so Janice and I went out again after supper and we had no luck either. She is supposed to have her calf in May and tomorrow is the last day. Bett did up the dishes and Dad and she were sitting out on the porch enjoying the cool air when Jan and I got back.

May 31 Monday

Dad worked on the second poultry house today, which he will use to store grain in this summer. I got up at five o'clock and worked in the yard a half hour before Dad got up. After breakfast Janice and I worked in the garden. Got our first head of cabbage today. Bett read and took a sunbath most of the morning. The girls went back to Birmingham this evening. I enjoyed having Betty here all week.

June 1 Tuesday

Worked in garden all day. Dad cultivated corn over in the marsh this morning. Saw cow tracks so Miss Domino must be over there and as there were no small tracks she evidently didn't have her calf yet.

Letters today from Gertrude and Edna. They are coming the 9th of June. Edna, John, Jack, and Gert are coming. Must write them letters tonight yet.

The soybeans are coming up good-thank goodness. Dad was worried about them. Need rain again.

June 2 Wednesday

Dad worked all day on the poultry house today and I worked all day in the garden.

June 3. Thursday

Johnnie got in last night at one o'clock. From then on I tossed and turned and felt like the very deuce today.

Dad finished cultivating this morning and then he and Johnnie worked on the combine and tried it out. They don't have it in apple pie shape yet.

Tonight Gert had her new calf. It is premature but looks o.k. except that it is small.

Finished the garden today. Now I can start at the beginning again and go over. The Johnson

grass grows by leaps and bounds.

June 4 Friday

Dad combined all day, he and Johnnie. I swept upstairs today. The girls came home tonight. Lots of talk about as usual.

June 5 Saturday

Dad and Johnnie combined Mr. Nix's oats today. The combine isn't running smoothly yet. Bett and Janice went to Montevallo for groceries and I cleaned up the house. They picked blackberries this afternoon, which I'm going to make up into jam. Had berries and whipped cream for supper tonight.

I cleaned downstairs today. Milked tonight for Dad and had all the chores done up for him. They worked until dusk tonight. Three eggs today.

June 6 Sunday

Dad and Johnnie worked on the truck and combine this morning. Fixed the combine but the truck isn't working yet.

Janice and I went out to pick blackberries this morning. Each got a gallon. She and Betty each got a gallon yesterday, so I cleaned them all and canned them today. Had four meals out of them and got 10 qts. I want to make some jam too.

The girls went back to Birmingham and Dad went over to see James Hicks when he took them to the bus. He wants James to come back to work. We are head over heels in work in spite of the fact Johnnie is home now.

June 7 Monday

Dad and Johnnie combined all day. Things aren't going so good I cleaned the upstairs good today. Am getting ready for my company.

Letter from Margaret today. She wants Bett and Jan to go to Colorado to see her.

Moved the pig house this evening. Am getting things ready for Rosie and her pigs are about due.

June 8 Tuesday

Men working hard combining. hot, very hot! Baked for company.

June 9 Wednesday to Sat June 19

Well our company is gone and I enjoyed them all. Jack stayed only a day and a half. Then he started on his way to New Orleans. John really enjoyed fishing in the creek down at the swimming hole. He went out every day and stayed all day. Gertrude was sick when they arrived so we couldn't do much the first day. We managed to take in the graveyard, the cove, badlands, ford, woods, etc. But there was still a lot to see but they only stayed from Wed. afternoon to the following Monday morning. We got in a drive on the spring creek road and we went to church at Straven at the mission which was a new experience for them. They went shopping and bought me some birthday presents although my birthday isn't until the 20th which

is tomorrow. They got me a straw hat, two blue sport shirts and a pair of overalls and a kitchen stool. Also went blackberry picking. I don't believe any of them really were ready to go home. Dad and Johnnie combined all the time they were here and still are not finished. They are having a lot of trouble.

Mon. afternoon after they left I got sick and was sick the rest of the week. Managed to cook the meals and do the dishes but today was the first time I ate a decent meal.

Rosie had her pigs and had twelve this time; but she has lost two already. The rest are doing fine.

Janice went to Pensacola with Ruth this weekend to see Mary Lou. Janice will stay all week. Betty is home as usual this week end. And hurrah!! hurrah!!! Johnnie's car is here at Wooten's. The men were too busy to go in, so Betty stopped to tell him Johnnie would be in the first of next week.

The men are both losing a lot of weight in this heat and are tired out. Everyone has gone to bed and it is only 8:30 o'clock.

June 20 Sunday

After the dew was off Dad and Johnnie combined for they are getting behind in their work. So Bett and I went out in the woods, over by the ford and picked blackberries. Got a gallon and a half but weren't out long for we had to come back in time for me to prepare dinner. it is so hot the men want a light lunch at noon and a heavier meal at night, so that is what I did today and will continue as long as this heat lasts.

Managed to get in some reading today. Dad hired two extra men for tomorrow. The oats in the civil war room is attracting mice so set three traps tonight.

June 21 Monday

Very hot today. Men finished combining. Thanks be! They are about worn out. Made blackberry jam today and canned 1 qt of bread and butter pickles.

June 22 Tuesday

Had Mr. Lucas here today baling straw. George Nix did the raking, the new boy Everett, and Johnnie loaded the bales on the truck and stored them in the hap loft. Dad helped everywhere. I didn't do much today except the routine work. Got a good nap in this afternoon and some reading too.

June 23 Wednesday

George, Johnnie, and Everett gathered straw today and filled the other half of the mow with loose straw, and started a stack on the other side of the creek. They have another day's work. Dad got his cultivators ready and tried it out. He is to cultivate the corn for the second time tomorrow. He went in to see Mr. Wooten today. Johnnie is to get his car tomorrow. I cut some poles for my beans but I don't have near enough. Picked two gallon of blackberries this afternoon. Received a letter from Edna today. Sold my first dozen of eggs today to Mrs. Brazier.

June 24 Thursday to June 27 Sunday

Have been so busy haven't had time to write in my diary. Dad plowed corn Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Johnnie hauled straw on Thursday. Friday he got his new car, a club coupe. It is a beauty. He drove to Birmingham to get Betty. Sat morning Betty and I went to Columbiana to get his tags for the car. Betty drove. It is heavenly to ride in after our old jalopy. Bett and Johnnie went to St. Paul's to Mass today and brought Janice back with them. She got back from Pensacola on Saturday. Had a very good time. She had a nice tan and was well rested, ready to start on her new job. She didn't seem to be the least bit nervous about it.

I picked and canned blackberries this week. Have 21 quarts now. Can't remember all I did but have been busy all the time.

It has been hot all week. The high was 95 degrees.

June 28 Monday to Thursday July 1

So busy---the men are plowing over at the Lee place getting ready to put in milo-combine.

Getting up at 15 after four. Also are working on a piece of fence. I've been gardening, canning, and doing up the work. Selling eggs now. Sold 9 1/2 dozen Monday at McCulley's Grocery at .55 a dozen.

Canned four roosters. Have five to do yet. It has been so hot and we are all tired out. Oh, for a good rain! We need it badly. We are beginning to tell people they can't go swimming in the creek. It might seem selfish but so many come in and walk over our soybeans and besides we came out in the country to have privacy. They forget that they aren't the only ones who come but there are dozens of others.

July 1 Thursday to July 6 Tuesday

The girls were home for the fourth and had Monday off too. Jan and I canned three roosters and we roasted two. Got an early start. Up at 4:30 but believe me it was a good morning's work. Bett was sick all day Monday, ate something that didn't agree with her, so she didn't go back on the bus with Janice in the afternoon. Went back today about 2 o'clock in Johnnie's car. She will have it there this week. Took eggs, milk, and tomatoes back with her. We went swimming while they were here on the 4 and 5th, the first time this summer. The water was wonderful as it hit a high of 100 degrees Monday. Janice and I explored the island, the first time either of us had been on it. Got in some blackberry picking too. Have 25 qt. now. There are just a few left now. Wanted to get more but there is just too much to do. I have never seen so many berries in my life. They hung in clusters like a picture.

Johnnie took us for a drive in his new car Sunday night. We went over to see the Bradford horse farm. It is a very nice and interesting place. Enjoyed the drive, and brought back ice cream.

The men are still plowing. The ground is so hard and we need rain badly but they feel like they can't wait, for the milo combine must be in by July 15th.

We all went out at 7 o'clock Sat. morning to get the wild cow in. Spread out and went over the whole place when we got back she was in with the other cows. So Dad put an extra wire on all the gaps and Sunday she was out again. Guess she leaps the fence. If we ever get her in the barnyard we will sell her, for an animal you can't control is no good. Her little calf is getting as

wild as she is and probably be a dangerous bull. We want to get it up here where we can tame it.

All in all we had a full week end. Letter today from Walter Mahler and snapshots. His Pa and Loui are planning on coming sometime in Sept.

Had some rain last night and it is cooler tonight. But we need lots more-Rain, rain, rain, and more rain!

To bed now and read my magazines. Reading an interesting article on the Reformation.

July 7 Wednesday

We are both so tired tonight. It is so hot and we need rain so badly. The calves got into the soy beans today and we had quite a time getting them out. Fixed a swinging gap across the creek, the water is so low they walk down the creek and get out that way. It was something that had to be done anyway. Johnnie finished the plowing and now disking will have to be done next. A Mr. Moyer from Leeds bought all the oats we had in the two chicken houses today, at \$ a bushel. Now we will have place to store the milo-combine. His wife was with him so she came in. it was 4 o'clock before the men got it sacked. They were here at 12:30. I enjoyed her but my dinner dishes were still on the table when they left. Did them up and it was time for chores. Flash of lightning, hope it rains.

July 8 Thursday

At last we got a rain, a beautiful rain! It is cool tonight and the men won't be able to plow and we don't even care. There is plenty to do around the place.

I mended 8 sacks today. We are going to need all we can gather together for Mr. Moyers will be back next Wednesday for more oats and Dad told him they would be sacked.

Churned and did up the house work, didn't feel so good so managed to get a nap in the afternoon.

July 9 Friday to July 11 Sunday

Dad worked on gates Fri and Johnnie cleaned up the shed. Bett came home as usual Fri. evening (she had Johnnie's car) and brought the groceries with her from Fairfield. Jan had a date so she didn't come home. She really enjoyed the car. Saturday Bett and Johnnie went to Bakers and bought 100 sacks at 8 cents apiece. They sacked oats for Mr. Moyer who will get them Wed. Dad worked on gates again. I mended and ironed some today.

Today we went to Straven to Mass. Met a Dr. Ryan, wife and daughter and Sister Mary Agsies. It is interesting, for you meet someone different each time.

This afternoon, Lorraine and John Ed and Harry stopped in on their way home from Montgomery. Bett took the car and took them over the place. We went swimming and they stayed for coffee and sandwiches. Bett rode back with them to Birmingham. They are like everyone else, they would like to spend every weekend down here.

We have been having rain since Friday and Dad like all farmers is beginning to worry about too much rain now. It is thundering out now. It has been considerably cooler which agrees with me immensely. Farming is one continuous round of worry about the weather and crops.

July 12 Monday to July 14 Wednesday.

Rained the last 3 days off and on so we aren't getting much disking done. Dad is making gates. Has 7 more made which I will have to paint.

Mr. Moyer came for the rest of the oats today and his wife came along with him.

Johnnie helped me some in the garden today. It is so far ahead of me; the weeds are terrific.

I sold my 24 acres to the rest of the family for \$225 an acre

July 15 Thursday to July 18 Sunday

Still trying to get our disking done in between showers and working on fence. Old Germany worked Thursday and Friday in the garden. Still lots to do.

Bett and Johnnie went to St. Paul's today. Picked up Janice. She washed Saturday and had a date so didn't come out Fri. Spent the afternoon down at the creek swimming and floating in an inner tube.

very very hot today and tonight.

July 18 Sunday to Aug 1 Sunday

All working hard. Dad is ready to put up gates now and get the pigs in the soy beans. Fence finished. Sheet rocked Janice's room. Still a little plumbing to do. Lots of rain. Vaccinated pigs. Busy all the time and too tired to write in this book.

Aug 2. Monday

Put pigs in soybeans today and got the calves ready for market.

Mr. Bailey is taking them with some of his stock. We are selling George, Baby, Stinky, Patches, the wild man and the black heifer.

Aug 3 Tuesday

Dad and I took Johnnie's Ford and went to Montgomery to the stock market. I thoroughly enjoyed it. My first trip to Montgomery. The cotton fields are beautiful now and the Spanish moss. enjoyed watching the cattle and pigs being auctioned off. When ours came out I was so excited. They brought us \$370.70

Johnnie cleaned up the pig lot while we were gone. Stopped at the A&P in Clanton and brought home groceries.

Aug 4 Wednesday

Johnnie finished planting the combine today. Cleaned up around the sheds on the hill. Dad worked on Janice's cedar closet. I worked in garden today.

Aug 5 Thursday

Worked in garden and canned 1 qt and 1 pt of bread and butter pickles. Churned and cleaned ice-box.

The men mowed the pasture and scythed the weeds today.

Dad finished the closet today. Johnnie worked on truck and they also took the planter off the tractor

Aug 6 Friday

Johnnie took truck into town and mowed the weeds in the pasture across the road and in the yard. Dad put the trim in the closet. I cleaned the house. Girls both came home tonight.

Aug 7 Saturday Johnnie and Dad worked in the garden. We are getting ready to put our fall garden in.

After lunch Betty and Johnnie went to Birmingham to shop. Betty bought herself a beautiful pair of brown suede shoes. We all gave Johnnie money for his birthday and he got himself handkerchiefs, underwear and shirts for school this fall. He is 22 years now and will be a junior at Auburn.

Dad put up the garden gate. It is beautiful.

Aug 8 Sunday

Mass to Straven. Mrs Campbell gave me a snapshot she had taken several weeks back. It was good.

Had Johnnie's birthday cake today, an angel food with whipped cream for icing. His birthday was Friday and I forgot all about it. Had late dinner and lots of rest and reading this afternoon.

Aug 9 Monday.

Dad went to Birmingham to the cattle market but didn't buy. Johnnie and I worked in the garden all day.

Card from Janice, she is in Colorado on her vacation.

Aug 10 Tuesday

Johnnie drove to Auburn today to see about a room and Dad went as far as Montgomery to buy cattle. The day flew by for me, I caught up a lot of odd jobs around.

Dad didn't buy and Johnnie didn't find a room.

Aug 11 Wednesday

Johnnie hauled ashes from Wilton today to put on the floor of the garage. Dad is working on the trim of the garage.

The new boar came today. It is a Duroc.

I whipped weeds a while this morning and got one side of the big garden gate painted.

Aug 12 Thursday

Johnnie hauled more ashes today for around the barn and the calves trays, and the barn lot drive. Dad worked on the garage again.

Today the road gang started getting sand out in our woods down by the creek. Dad gave them the sand and they fixed up our drive for us with the road patrol. Yesterday evening Dad and Johnnie wrecked the old hen house, for it was directly in the road where we wanted the drive to be to go to the new barn lot. This morning at a quarter after five the men were here to start. It didn't take long with the patrol. It looks so nice now.

Finished painting the garden gate.

Aug 13 Friday

Dad finished trimming out the garage. Johnnie gave the garden another planting and then painted the trim on the garage. He also pulled a few stumps in the hot pasture. I cleaned the house. The girls came home as usual.

Aug 14. Saturday

Betty gave herself a Toni today.

I baked a couple of butterscotch pies and killed and cleaned old Crooked Bill for our dinner tomorrow.

Dad and Johnnie worked on the tractor getting it ready to plow the combine. Then they built a trap to catch the wild cow. After supper tonight we went out to see what it was like and we could see where her calf had been in the pen and her tracks were on the outside. I hope Dad catches her. I think he will be really doing something for she is the runningest and wildest cow I've ever seen. Maybe he will at least catch the calf.

Aug 15 Sunday

(There is no further entry in notebook V, only blank pages)