**FOR JOHN PAUL CHITWOOD ON HIS 45th BIRTHDAY**

June 24, 1935

THE DAY YOU WERE BORN

We had a big overflow and your daddy was digging potatoes. We lived in a two room house with boards for the walls and cracks slanted to keep the rain and cold and snow out. There was no paper on the walls. The living room had a bed, the dresser that you have and the things that are up in the attic, that's what we put your clothes in. My cedar chest that your daddy gave me before we were married, the sewing machine and we sat the coal oil lamp on it. In the winter we had a coal stove to keep us warm and two chairs, rockers, one of these is in the attic. The bare floor and shades and curtains at the four windows. No radio, no television nor a telephone.

In the kitchen we had a four cap cook stove, the oven had a door on two sides. This is the stove that you sat upon, the apron where the ashes came out at and burned two places on your leg. Had a cabinet, a home-made dish cabinet with a curtain on the front of it, the table that is out in the wash house, four chairs and the wash stand that is up in the attic which sat in the corner by the back door. This is where the water bucket sat and the wash pan to wash our hands in, the towel hung on the wall.

In the summer time this corner was the bath house in a #3 wash tub. In the winter we got behind the coal stove in the living room. The wash stand held the towels and wash cloths. Towels were made from "sacks" and wash cloths were made from worn out knit underwear

There was no ice box either. On the small screened-in back porch was a wire cot with a straw filled tick and it was used when we had company and also we would sleep out there in the summer and placed "sack" curtains around it in the winter time.

In time your daddy built some shelves in the corner by the cook stove and this is where the cooking vessels stayed. Made "sack" curtains for it. Had three windows in the kitchen with "sack" curtains.

Had a table made from an old wagon bed out beside the house where I washed clothes on a rub board with home made lye soap. The water was heated in a black pot with a wood fire around it and this was our hot water tank. The tub and wash board with elbow power was the washing machine.

The clothes were hung on a line to dry and when it was raining they were hung behind the stove in the living room and this was our dryer.

We didn't change clothes every day back in those days. O yes, we had a curtain drawn across the corner in the kitchen and this was the clothe closet. There was a wood box behind the cook stove for the stove wood which was made from an old Holsom wood bread box.

We borrow a cradle for you and you were born at home and not in a hospital. Dr Kirksey's bill was $20 and we done well to pay that. Florence Bennett and Leona Winfrey were there and both are still living. Mama was there but she stayed in the background.

As the first grandchild you had four grandparents and today you have only one, my mother is still here but Nana Chitwood is gone. You were named for your daddy's dad and my dear daddy who said call me Big Dad. He bought you your first pair of overalls.

We loved you then and we love you now.

Dad and Mom

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