YOU ARE 42 YEARS OLD TODAY ~ Ruth Elizabeth Chitwood Coleman

November 7, 1980

Written By Martha Chitwood

The day you were born we had been having beautiful weather just as we have had the last few days. But we were ready for winter, the coal stove was up and we had coal laid in for the cold weather.

Your daddy was not a farmer anymore like he was when John Paul was born. He was working in Fort Smith as a carpenter for Dyer Meadors getting $9 a week for six days.

We had added another room to the house and had taken away the two small porches and the porch was at the front of the new room and one added to the east side that went out to the well where we got our water. The porch was screened in and we had put curtains on it. We had put siding on the house so the cracks were covered up to help keep out the cold We still had no paper on the walls on the inside just the plain lumber.

We had some shades and curtains at the windows. Had got another bed so had two beds now and the baby bed we had got for John Paul. We still had the same cook stove and a closet built in the corner of the kitchen for our clothes and did not have to use a curtain anymore. We were happy to have another room.

We still had no car, no telephone, no radio, no television, no electricity, nor gas, no running water, no washer, nor dryer, no bathroom, and still had to use the out house.

It was Monday and your daddy went to work. The weather was nice and everything still pretty and green. But when night came it was getting cold and we had a hard freeze and frost the night you were born. We had to build a fire in the stove that night. Your daddy went to Floyd Winfrey and called Dr. Kirksey. Leone Winfrey and Florence Bennett were there. You came to live with us about 10 o'clock. John Paul slept through it all in the other room but he awoke when it was over and saw his little sister. He was proud of her; he was three years and five months old.

You were just about bald, just a little hair around the edges but you had the sweetest little hands and a little finger with a crook in it. I had two names picked out, Julia Ann and Ruth Elizabeth so your daddy picked your name. Named after your Aunt Ruth and your Mother.

Mama was not there the night that you were born so her and your Big Dad came to see you the next day and brought Ethel Roe who was to stay with us for two weeks. She stayed for 50 per day. We were so proud to have her. John Paul really tried to help her by telling Mrs "Toe" that his mama did not put that there or that she didn't do it that way***. [Editor: 50 cents a day???]***

Nana Chitwood came over the next morning and she said that my house looked like we had been picking a bunch of geese.

You were born at home not in a hospital. Dr. Kirksey's bill was $30.00, gone up since John Paul was born.

When I wrote John Paul his 45th birthday letter, I said that he had four grandparents at the time but I made a mistake for he had five. He had a great-grandparent, Nana Bowlin's father was still living, John Henry Winfrey; he died in 1937.

So, Ruth, when you were born you had four grandparents, today, November 7, 1980, you have only one left, Nana Bowlin who is 89 years old.

So, Ruth, in these 42 years I do not have to write you all the changes that have taken place as you can see them for yourself. I prayed before you came to live with us, "Dear Lord, if I can be a good Mother to a little girl, send us one." So He sent you. You have been a lot of joy and a lot of happiness. We loved you the night that you came to live with us and we still love you.

May your birthday be a happy one and may you have many more.

Our Love forever

Dad and Mom

May your birthday open up a view

Of life's pure loveliness for you,

In which you see a road ahead

Where God's true blessings have been spread.

Where every day new favors send

New joys, new pleasures and new friends.

Where God will send you from above

The sunshine of His constant love.

P. T. L !



**We thank God for CARL AND TINA PATRICK** who have served Jesus Christ faithfully

for 22 years as Directors and as workers in the Preschool Division.

"Great and mighty things transpire when

the minds of little children are

infused with godly wisdom."

Thought you might like this as you well know my church training was begun at the Methodist Church of Dyer at a very young age.

***[Editor's Note: This was handwritten on the original document.]***

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