

2009

My dear grandchildren,

You will have to blame Aunt Cinda for these pages. She put me up to it. She said Grandmother had written a lot about our experiences but she knew I had some stories too and should write them for you kids.

So from here on you are on your own. Don't blame me if you get bored. That will be your own fault if you keep reading.

**But remember I love you all,
Your old Granddaddy
(a.k.a. – C. W. Callaway)**

**P.S. to Cinda,
How am I doing so far? I got all the above written in September 2002. Maybe if you keep pushing I'll eventually get some more written.
Love, Daddy**

**P.P.S. to everybody else,
You are welcome to read these tales too – if you dare. They are not family secrets.
Jesus and I love you too, C. W. Callaway**

.....>>>>

I dedicate these pages to

My dear grandchildren:

**Angela, Bethany, Joshua
Rhonda, Ben, Robin, Melody
Tina, Dorina, Enoch
Michael, Rachel, Nathan
Mindy, Jason, Joel**

And my precious great grandchildren:

**Allen
Sarah, Stephanie, Trent
Nathanael, Caleb, Shyrah, Joel David
Janessa, Micah, Alysha
Karina, Luke
Alyssa, Jayden, Erica**

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How are you going to understand my ancient stories if you don't know that the world was different then? Well here are some of the strange things that were going on back in the early twentieth century.

This was the world from 1920 to 1939:

US Presidents

1913-1921 Woodrow Wilson	1921-1923 Warren G. Harding	1923-1929 Calvin Coolidge
1929-1933 Herbert Hoover	1933-1945 Franklin D. Roosevelt	

Events

- 1 **World War I** had ended in 1918
- 2 **Women won the right to vote in 1920** with ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. More women also began to work outside the home in the 1920s.
- 3 **Prohibition** (1920-1933). In 1920 the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution went into effect. This amendment banned the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors in the United States.
- 4 **Charles Lindbergh's solo flight** across the Atlantic in 1927 captured the imagination of a nation.
- 5 On **Black Tuesday** (10/29/1929) the market collapsed in a single day and by the end of November, investors had lost \$100 billion in assets in "The Great Stock Market Crash." This marks the point where **the Roaring 20's ended and the Great Depression (1929-39) started**. Between 1929 and 1932 the income of the average American family was reduced by 40%, from \$2,300 to \$1,500. What was once the land of opportunity was now the land of desperation.
- 6 **The "Dust Bowl"** was a term born in the hard times from the people who lived in the drought-stricken region during the great depression. Many Dust Bowl farmers packed their families into cars, tied their few possessions on the back, and sought work in the agricultural fields or cities of the West - their role as independent land owners gone forever.
- 7 1935 Social Security Act was established
1938 Minimum wage was established at 25 cents/hour (equal to \$3.22/hour in 2005 dollars)

US Facts/Culture

- 1 Population: 106,521,537 people in the United States. Up to 123 million in the 30's.
- 2 Life expectancy: Male 53.6, Female 54.6 in the 20's
- 3 Average salary: \$1236 in 1920 (equal to \$11,624 in 2004) Up only to \$1,368 in 1930
- 4 Unemployment: 5.2%; 2,132,000 unemployed in 1920. Unemployment rose to 25% in 1930's
- 5 Costs: \$100,000 in 1924 would equal \$1,097,076 in 2004.
- 6 Food Prices in the 30's: Milk, 14 cents a qt.; Bread, 9 cents a loaf; Round Steak, 42 cents a pound
- 7 Literacy: Illiteracy rate reached a new low of 6% of the population in the 1920's.
- 8 Travel: It took 13 days to reach California from New York. (in the 1920's the sale of automobiles soared from six million to twenty-seven million. Helping to spur sales was the two week summer vacation. Between 1908 and 1916 the price of the Model-T fell from \$850 to \$360).
- 9 Clothing/Styles: There were dramatic changes in women's clothing, the short skirt was popular by 1925. Traditionally, women's hair had always been worn long but now more women wore it short, or bobbed. Cosmetics, powder, lipstick, rouge, eyebrow pencil, eye shadow and colored nails were all the rage. This period marked the spread of ready-to-wear fashion. More women were wage earners and did not want to spent time on fittings. Inexpensive fashion became available. Garters were 40 cents.
- 10 Entertainment: America got a new cultural capital in the 1920s, Hollywood. Each week up to 80 million people, nearly 80% of the country's population, went to silent movies. By 1930, every movie was made with sound. Americans went crazy for sports in the Twenties, such as baseball and golf. Dance marathons began in 1923. Dance crazes included the Charleston, the Black Bottom, and the Shimmy. The Miss America contest began in Atlantic City in 1921.
- 11 *The Roaring Twenties* placed an emphasis on individualism, creating wealth and enjoying the new fads and inventions of the day. Industries grew quickly and the stock market boomed. Shorter work weeks and increased wages led to a dramatic change in communications, transportation and recreation. The 1920s produced another innovation - "credit," where people could "buy now, and pay later. Corner shops gave way to chain stores, like Woolworth's and the Piggly Wiggly Supermarkets, which supplied identical goods at identical prices.

MY TEXAS STORIES

8/12/1920 to fall 1938

1. PERRYTON, TEXAS

It is really too far back for me to remember but I heard about it second-hand later on. I was then informed that I had been born on August 12, 1920 in the North Texas Panhandle town of Perryton – just 7 miles south of the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Burl, Lela, and Cert (Cleo) had all entered this world before me in the nearby town of Ochiltree. Thad, Max, & Dallas all made their appearance in the following few years. That means that I was the middle child of seven. For some reason I was the one chosen to bear my father's name. Thus I became Charley Watley Callaway, Jr. – Now that's a mouthful for you. Try saying that in one breath! Anyway I fortunately don't have to go through all that but have usually just been called "C.W." And as you know, to many family and friends I am known simply as "Dub." I've been so grateful that I was not called "Junior." I suppose I was just too proud for that term.

Daddy had his own special names for each of us kids and to him I was always "Stick in the mud." And that by the way is my first story. They tell me that one day I chose to go through a mud puddle and came out of it minus one shoe. It seems that I had to be rescued from the puddle in fact. And why did I ever go in there in the first place? Surely you don't expect me to remember that far back now do you?

There was one hill in Perryton. At least we kids called it "the hill." From a flat plain there was a gradual incline near a main road that may have gone up 8 or 10 feet and from that point the level plain continued for as far as our kid's eyes could see. Well that hill got really fixed in my mind one certain day.

I must have been 9 or 10 years old by then. I was on that "hill" with some older boys who decided it would be fun to throw eggs at passing cars. The driver of one car happened to be a fuddy-duddy who didn't appreciate the fun.

I don't know if he thought I was the main culprit or if it was just that I was the slowest runner. Anyway he saw which house I went into so he followed and I was pulled out from under my bed to face the punishment. Strangely my mother agreed with him that such behavior as we had been involved in was not appropriate.

Daddy smoked cigars for as far back as I could remember. One day Burl decided he was grown up and should try that too. Daddy found out about it and made Burl smoke until he got sick and turned green. That experience cured Burl from ever wanting to try that again. It scared the rest of us too so much that so as far as I know none of us kids ever smoked or drank from that point on.

None of us were angels but on the whole we got along reasonably well together and I don't think we got into a whole lot of trouble.

Max used to say - proudly I think, "There are three redheads in our family: me, Daddy, and old Bossy." (The latter was our cow.) Even so he didn't like to be called "Red." – So naturally when we needed excitement that is what we called him. I remember him chasing me around the house with a hammer after one of those occasions. With some encouragement from our parents we made up and have gotten along well together since then.

Daddy worked at the "White House Lumber Company" in Perryton. There he sold tractors, hardware, - and even lumber. Charley Cooper had a wagon and team of horses and hauled wood from the railroad cars to the lumber yard. Seems I even got to ride on