

A Profile of Cindy Reeves-Janzen

By Alex Janzen

The life of Cindy Reeves-Janzen, my mom, is interesting, to say the least. Her early childhood was filled with hard work, exciting adventures, and sticky situations. Growing up on the farm shaped her into the wonderful person that she is today.

One event in her childhood that sticks out in her mind is a summer day in the garden with her dad. She was working with him, planting tomatoes and other vegetables without the help of her brothers. Mom thought that her brothers must be gone, or were being lazy, but she kept working anyway. After a hard half-day of work with her dad they went in for lunch. That is when Mom's dad said that they were going on a trip. It would only be she and her dad going. They were going to go see Uncle Doc, one of Mom's favorite uncles. He lived far away, so this was a special trip for her. She realized that they weren't going on this trip because of her hard work on the garden. This taught her that even if she doesn't expect a pay off, she should still work hard and not complain, because you never know what is going to happen.

Another event that happened during her youth on the farm was a day that she was discing a field to prepare it for planting. She was going to do this for about 12 hours on a field that was 10 miles away from home. She got to the field and her dad told her, "Make sure you don't get close to that wet spot!" However, she tried to get as close to the wet spot as possible, but ended up getting stuck. She got very upset. "I got myself calmed back down and started to think about how to solve the problem," she said. One of the ideas she had was to detach the disc, and back the tractor in from a sharper angle, so the tractor was on dry land. After doing this, the disc and the tractor were at different heights, so she solved the problem by creating a groove in the ground for the tractor, to lower it. After that, she was able to hook it up, and pull it out.

"This event taught me to calm myself down in times of stress to solve a problem, rather than thinking about the stress itself. It taught me not to quit thinking, so that I could come up with ways to fix stuff. It also taught me to rely on my intuition to fix things instead of others. Finally, it taught me to not give up hope. These things have helped me for the rest of my life," said Mom.

In conclusion, events experienced throughout my mother's childhood on the farm have brought her life lessons that she lives by to this day. These experiences taught her dedication and a good work ethic, along with many other life skills.