

*The Past, The Present  
& The Future*

*Standing Reunion*

*Questionnaire -*

*June 22-24, 2012*

## WHO WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND WHEN YOU WERE 8 YEARS OLD?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) - When I was 6 years old it was Lela Ravenswaay, the youngest daughter of a family of solid Dutch Reformed ancestry. Lela was plump, cheerful, and an obedient follower. Her father was a hired hand for my dad's first cousin, Ralph Plagman. The whole family, dad, mom, older sisters Madeline, Henrietta and Gertrude, and little Lela all lived in a small tenant house behind the windbreak on Ralph Plagman's farm. Lela's family moved back to "Dutch Country" before my second grade year.

[Rachel Baughn](#) – Peggy Rockwell

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – I don't remember.

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – Reva and Wanda Standing

[Osa Osborn Bricker](#) – My best friend was Coleen Spillers

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Mary Landt

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Jenny Mayer

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Avery Rondall

[Cameron Foster](#) – Roger Scott

[Ted Foster](#) - I had two best friends at 8, neighbors.

[John Griffith](#) – My brother Bob

[Larry Hutzell](#) – Dave Richardson

[Diane Johnson](#) – Ann

[Nancy Johnson](#) – My sister Joyce -- at both ages, and she still IS my best friend. . .

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#)-- Lucky Standing Guindon. We had a double wedding. She lives in Costa Rica now. And Wanda Standing Knight.

[Megan Knight](#) – My best friend was a boy in my class at school named Kris.

[Nick Knight](#) – Steve Osborn

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – My sister, Reva was always my best friend. In our neighborhood and meeting Birdie Standing Kisling and Lucille Standing Guindon were special friends. I was older than Birdie and Lucky and was not always the best influence, but I have wonderful memories of walking the dirt roads to go and visit. Wilden, Birdie's brother, who was a few months older than I was and cousin Leland were also favorites. Willie, Charlie and Lawrence often went with us to the timber and even if we had been told to not get into the creek that was usually our first stop. Growing up in the country afforded many an interesting experience. Willie fixed up an old buggy so he could drive it with chains. We would gather in the buggy at the top of the hill going down to Willie and Birdie's house and push off. One time Willie couldn't make the corner and we sailed off into the pond. I don't think we ever got the buggy out -- it sat there for a good long time.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – Cyndy Lunde

[Alison Lohans](#) – I'm not sure I remember a best friend from when I was 8 years old – though I remember playing with a boy named Dennis Nikkel at school. The kids who came over to my house to play were neighbours David Kope and Sue Scott.

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – My cousins, Bertha and Evelyn Standing

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) - Jessica Dix

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - Probably my sisters, we moved right around this time and I don't remember any really close friends till about 9 yrs old. Jamie and Amanda were my friends starting in 3rd grade and we stayed friends till 8th grade when we moved again.

Francis Osborn – Ellis.

Joyce Osborn - My sister, Nancy, has been my best friend all of my life. We spent most of our time playing around the farm with our cats, and exploring in the north woods, following the cowpaths and building dams in the creek., Linda and Karen Mendenhall were good playmates-they lived just down from the lane from us( in the George Standing home)and we had a good time climbing their evergreen trees and playing with our dolls in the culvert under our lane. Once I went to school in Earlham, Johnny Cairns, who lived a mile east of us, became a good friend-we especially enjoyed recess and summer bible school.

Otis Osborn – Ellis Standing

Michele Conway Plagman – At 8, my best friend was Pam Williamson. She lived in town and when I got to stay at her house, we would go bike riding around town, and to the drugstore to buy a candy bar.

Emily Plagman - Best friends were Sarah Lucht and Michelle Bauer.

Tom Plagman - Mike Brown and Curtis Roggow were sons of renters on farms close to ours and rode on the school bus with us. They both moved away before we went in to Jr. High. Later I learned that Curtis had a brother (Norman) who was listed as MIA in Viet Nam. He was a fighter pilot and his aircraft crashed into a mountain in the Viet Nam jungle. I believe Norman's remains were recently discovered and returned.

Sally Russell – When I was 8 years old we were moving from place to place and I don't remember any names from that time. However I do remember when I was 4 and we lived in Chariton, IA I had two best friends, Freddy Baze and Larry Spiker . We threw all of the corn cobs out of the neighbor's hay mow and got into quite a little trouble!!!

Wilbur Russell – Gene Conrad

Ellis Standing – I was fortunate to have the Osborns living nearby, so I had built-in best friends Francis and Otis. We spent a lot of time playing together.

Janet Standing (UK) – A girl called Joan who was in my class.

Kathy (RN) Standing - When I was 8 we lived in northwest Iowa and went to Sutherland Community Schools. My favorite friend was probably Kim Rehder, although I was also good friends with Joni Sickelka – we rode the school bus together. Kim and Joni and I kept in touch through letters for a few years after I moved away, although I've never seen either of them again.

Kate Plagman Wurtzler - Sisters of course; besides which at 8 it was Emily Lucht.

WAS THIS SAME PERSON YOUR BEST FRIEND WHEN YOU WERE 14?

Ruth Plagman Alliband – No. I didn't see much of Lela after that, but ran into her sister Gertrude, who was clerking in a dime store in Sheldon, Iowa, when I came to that town for a high school speech contest in 1962.

Rachel Baughn – No, though we still belonged to Stillwater meeting.

Gladys Standing Bierma – Yes

Osa Osborn Bricker – After the 7<sup>th</sup> grade I went to school in Ohio, so we lost contact.

Kayla Cripps – No, my second-best friend

Kylie Cripps – No

Morgan Cripps – Yes

Cameron Foster – No

Ted Foster - I had a different best friend at 14 (same name, Foster, but no relation). Again we moved and lost touch, but he found me on the Internet (not Facebook) and we had a recent visit and compared life stories.

John Griffith – Yes

Larry Hutzell – Yes

Nancy Johnson – My sister Joyce -- at both ages, and she still IS my best friend. . .

Birdie Standing Kisling – Yes, and on a recent visit to Costa Rica we picked right up as if we had never been apart.

Megan Knight – No, my family moved from one town to another in Kentucky when I was 9, so I lost touch with previous friends. At 14 I had two best girlfriends named Donna and Teresa.

Nick Knight – One of them

Wanda Standing Knight – At 14 my horizons had expanded with school friends and my cousins were not as close, though Reva would continue to be my best girl friend for the rest of my life.

Lisa Lansing – No, she moved away.

Alison Lohans – No. When I was 14, my first year of high school, I was “between best friends”. Probably the closest I had to a best friend that year was Ellen Larson.

Mildred Standing Lohans – Yes

Savanna Alliband McGrew – Yes, among other new friends.

Francis Osborn – Yes, probably.

Otis Osborn – Probably, although he DID tell me he wouldn't like me for 1,000 years...

Emily Plagman – No, when I was fourteen, my best friends were different because we moved.

Michele Plagman – In junior high, Pam Williamson started playing basketball and I was awful at it, so I ended up with other friends, including Brian Hokel, who is still a good friend. Jennifer Ladman was my best friend in high school. I just connected back up with her in August.

Wilbur Russell –No

Ellis Standing – Yes

Janet Standing (UK) – No we moved one school together then moved to another school and the friendship ended.

Kathy (RN) Standing - No. When I was 10 we moved to Earlham, Iowa and I was friends with Jayne Krueger until I went to Scattergood at 14; then I would say my best friend was Carol Gilbert.

Kate Plagman Wurtzler – At 14 it was Ellie Barrett. As Andrea stated, we moved a few times growing up.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY ABOUT ANIMALS FROM WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?

Ruth Plagman Alliband – The animal I spent the most time with was my dog Brownie. I think our family got her when I was 18 months old and she was run over by the egg truck when I was a senior in high school—she was about 16 YO then, hard of hearing and incontinent. Tom and Carl had been digging a big hole in the grove; it became a ready-made grave for her. Brownie was an unwilling participant in my reenactments of some of the high points of my life. When I was about 4 years old, my family, cousin Jim and

Linda's family (the Niebuhrs) and Aunts Alice and Rose drove to Sioux City to see the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. This was the first circus I had ever been to, and it was very exciting. I must have talked about it a lot when we got home, because my dad was inspired to carve a "lion cage" out of a large cardboard box, mount it on top of my red coaster wagon, and slide Brownie inside the box. She only went in once, and she wasn't happy about that. Then when I got my tonsils out, the world of the Sioux Valley Hospital in Cherokee, Iowa opened my eyes to all kinds of occupations I hadn't known existed. I was fascinated with all the different caps the nurses wore, there were orderlies, dietitians, etc. When I got back and was reliving that, I planned for Brownie to get HER tonsils out. I assigned roles to my parents and all my adult relatives. This event happened only in the planning—fortunately we never operated on Brownie.

When the ear corn was finally shelled in the corn crib, a lot of mouse families were exposed. I would capture hairless baby mice after the mother mouse had fled and plan to raise them up to be mouse circus performers (this must have been after 1956, when I saw a mouse circus at the Peterson Centennial). I had a little plastic tricycle with my doll house and I hoped to get the mice to ride it. Unfortunately I was not very diligent at feeding them or caring for them, so they all died. In fact, they just disappeared, and I was never sure where they went.

My dad had two teams of draft horses. The first one was King and Jim, which were a wedding present. King was a very large horse and died first. Jim lived a very long time—into his late 20s. They were bay-colored with black manes and tails. Dad acquired a second team of pretty sorrel draft horses from a farmer up near Ruthven. He heard about deals like these through the grapevine at Shorty's Pool Hall. That farmer was about to sell them to a logging camp in Maine, and my dad felt compelled to rescue them. Their names were Fox and King. Fox had a sorrel mane and King had a golden mane. They were so spirited that only Uncle Gerald could handle them.

**Jean Standing Biere** – Dad had a purebred German police dog named Janice. She could do fifty commands. I remember one litter of pups, but we didn't get to keep any. The story goes that my grandfather was not amused by Janice's ability to "guard" when she would not let him on the farm when we were gone: he OWNED the farm!!

**Gladys Standing Bierma** – Our family was given animals that were ailing (a lamb and white pig). My oldest sister, Florence, brought a dog named Boots home from Des Moines. I had a tiger cat named Durk (from the poem *Childhood*).

**Osa Osborn Bricker** – We had two crows which were ornery characters. I have an image in my mind of Mom bending over working in the garden and one of the crows landing on her back. We had to shut them up on washday because they pulled the clothespins off the wet clothes on the line. I remember trying to put doll clothes on the barn cats.

**Kayla Cripps** - Buddy Learns His Lesson: We had the fire burning and my cat Buddy jumped up on the stones surrounding the fire. He burned his whiskers, so we had to cut them all off to even them up. But they grew back... My Alarm Cat: Every single morning my cat Tucker thinks he's going to die if he doesn't get his breakfast, so he comes into my room, jumps on top of me and meows like a meowing machine. He keeps meowing until I feed him. He's like my alarm!

**Ted Foster** – For the first ten years of my life we lived outside of town on a small farm. This was within the Ohio River flood plain in the years before dams and locks. The house on a small hill and rarely was flooded itself (except the ‘big one’ in 1937). For about three weeks each spring we enjoyed an island existence, getting deliveries and going to town in a rowboat. For a kid who spent every moment of his existence hunting for lizards, snakes, and as well any sort of rodent or insect to feed his collected charges, this flood-time was heaven. Our yard became nature's Noah's ark for critters ranging from farm animals to snakes.

**John Griffith** – My dog Tarzan slept with me and always went with me when I delivered newspapers early in the morning.

**Larry Hutzell** – At grandfather's (Alfred Standing), I was rescued from a cross rooster by the family dog, Prince, a beautiful collie. Other stories too long to write...

**Nancy Johnson** – I loved to go get the cows all by myself when they were back in woods; I was always so surprised that they were willing to follow a little girl back to the barn (but of course they wanted to be milked!). Joyce & I once or twice tried to "ride" cows when they were in the pen waiting to be milked -- but they quickly learned to "scrape us off" by walking under the overhang into the milking shed.

**Birdie Standing Kisling** – We had a mean rooster that chased me. I was afraid to go outside. My uncle came to visit and mom decided to kill that rooster; it flew right at my uncle. He grabbed it and killed it and I was so happy.

**Megan Knight** – I grew up on a farm, and in addition to dogs and cats we had goats and sheep. Chasing the newborn lambs in the field each spring with my sister was such a thrill—they were difficult to catch, but if we could do so we'd have a chance to hug the furry, leggy creatures before they bounded off.

**Nick Knight** – I got calves from Miriam Standing as a young boy and bottle fed them. I learned one day after my calf was gone. Dad informed me that Freddy (my first calf) was joining us for dinner that night.

**Wanda Standing Knight** – Our dogs were important members of our family. There was Scotty, who was given to us by Uncle Arthur's family, as they couldn't have a dog where they were living. He came and died at our back door when he was 10 years old. Then we had Mitzie, who was sent on the train from O'Brien County by Grandpa Henderson. Unfortunately, as I was the youngest and I loved to play with Grandpa, Grandpa addressed the dog to me, and Reva never really got over that. That is the tragedy of only 2 children that are close in age—they are always compared. Mitzie was a black collie with a slim nose and little orange eyebrows. Our horses were special too, as Daddy bred Belgian horses—he was proud of this stock and it rubbed off on us. One time he bred our mare Jip to a donkey and we had a little mule. The first thing that baby mule did was kick Daddy, so we named him Arthur after Daddy. We had many farm cats. I used to dip the cats front paws in kerosene so they wouldn't get cat colds -- not sure if there was any scientific evidence to prove it helped.

**Lisa Lansing** – Our dog Dusty had 9 puppies. We named them all except for one. We tried to think of a name. Somebody said oh shucks what should we call her and therefore we named the puppy Oh Shucks.

**Alison Lohans** – When I was about 5 or 6, I really liked for cats to be named “Susie”. Slight problem, though. Our cat was a tom – so we named him **Mr. Susie**.



Another longer story: We often had chickens. One summer when we came back from vacation, there was a white goose hanging around near the chicken yard. Nobody we knew had lost a goose – and the goose stayed (not confined in any way). We gave her a Quakerly name: Samantha. Samantha was a great greeter (or announcer – as good as any dog). She also laid white eggs much larger than the chickens' eggs – and as I was never much of an egg fan as a kid, I never tried any of Samantha's eggs. My dad and brothers all enjoyed the goose eggs, though! My paternal grandparents, "Grosspapa and Grossmama" Lohans were often with us, sometimes living with us. Grosspapa was a retired minister, and always carried a kind of quiet dignity with him, dressing rather formally. One day Samantha did something that annoyed Grosspapa. In retaliation, he picked her up and threw her into the enamel tub that was Samantha's drinking water. She liked it! - and came back for more! So, for a while we all (including Samantha) had a good time tossing her into the water.

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – I loved dressing up my cat Cherokee. He was so big and lovey, and he would patiently allow me to dress him in my doll clothes and take pictures of him!

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - I remember our cats Fred and Amy- Emily used to carry them both around with one arm around the front legs, she was so small that the cat's back legs were touching the ground and would be trying to keep up with Em's strides.

[Francis Osborn](#) – Yes, a pet raccoon.

[Joyce Osborn](#) -We lived next door to Miriam Standing, who was farming her parents' farm( the original George and Debbie farm). I would go over and "help" her-she would have me hold each rabbit while she cleaned out their cages, and it made me feel very important. I also "helped" Dad on the farm and once he was mending fence in the hog lot where there were new little pigs which fascinated me. One got stuck between two bales of straw and was squealing so I went to free it up. All at once the huge sow was charging at me and I froze. Next thing I knew I was flying thru the air over the fence, and then Dad landed on the ground right next to me. Wisely he had tossed me to safety and then himself in the nick of time. Instead of being grateful, I scolded him "Daddy, Thee threw me in the thistles!" We had dairy cows, and my favorite was a Brown Swiss, which I called "Brown Beauty" after reading the book about Black Beauty, the horse. I had a sand bucket which I filled with windfall apples and took to her, several trips, letting only her eat them and she really enjoyed them. She became sick a few days later, and Burt (Kisling) came over and helped Dad load her up to take her to Ames to the Vet Med School. She subsequently died and I worried that it was all of the apples I had given her, but Dad explained that she had ingested a length of barbed wire and it was not my fault. We did not ever raise sheep, but we did move to a farm later that had lots of them-the first time we went out to see them, I told Dad " They must have eaten too fast, they are all burping!"

[Otis Osborn](#) – We had a pet squirrel, Fanny, who lived outside and would come running for a teaspoon of milk.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – I loved cats but my parents didn't let us have cats in the house. One of the outside cats had babies and I carried the mother cat to another place. Out came the afterbirth, but I thought it was another kitten and thought I had killed it!

[Emily Plagman](#) – *Little Black Sambo; The Tigers of Como Zoo*

[Tom Plagman](#) - We always had dogs when I was growing up. Caesar, a big black short haired mix, was a one man dog and that man happened to be our dad. He tolerated my

brother and I, but had a mean streak that seemed to get wider with age. With that his tolerance of anyone not on his "A" list grew distressingly less. I never tire of telling how on a hot summer day we my brother Carl, I and Caesar were out by the gravel road that ran by our farm watching as gravel trucks raced by at 50-60 mph. Caesar was sure he was meaner than the trucks and chose to chase one. What I remember is being horrified as he disappeared under the front bumper but then surprised and relieved to see him come rolling out from under the undercarriage and get up and run away yelping with his tail between his legs. His tail was to stay there for the rest of his life, broken at the very top. He also sustained a scar on his cheek that only added to his junkyard dog appearance.

**Sally Russell** – I always had a cat and I always "helped" Miriam with the cows, chickens & rabbits. Miriam sold hatching eggs and they had to be done just right. Once Miriam was sick and Grandmother and I were doing the eggs. I asked Grandmother if she had helped Miriam with the eggs when she was a little girl?

**Wilbur Russell** – My folks used to raise sheep and while they was on vacation, Bill Benson (a neighbor boy) and I decided to get rid of some maggots on a lamb. We got a hog pan with gasoline in it and dipped the hind end of the lamb in it. Well you never saw a lamb tear around the barnlot like he did! It did get rid of the maggots.

**Ellis Standing** – I remember having a hard time with pets and 4-H animals. I had a pet pigeon that stayed outside around the house. One day I witnessed the pigeon flying from the house to the garage. A hawk swooped down and carried the pigeon away: it became a carrier pigeon!

- A neighbor gave me a baby goat. The goat got into Dad's cow feed, overate and died.
- - I had a pet owl. I took the owl to school and demonstrated to several classes how the owl ate mice. I think it contracted AIDS at school and died within a few days.
- One of my 4-H sheep got killed by coyotes.
- Our dog was named Bunny—a traditional farm boy's pet. She helped bring cows from the pasture and tagged along with me most everywhere. She barked only when someone came.
- Miriam Standing gave me an angora rabbit. A snake got my rabbit's babies. Then she got her leg through the mesh of the cage and had to be destroyed.

**Kathy (RN) Standing** - We always loved animals and begged to have them. When we lived in town we had several cats that we got from a nearby farm; they NEVER lived very long. There was no vet care or distemper shots for outside cats, so they always succumbed to something. I also loved turtles. I got a tiny, painted turtle for my birthday one year. I don't remember much about it until my older sister told me it was dead. I looked and said, "No, it's just sleeping". She was right, however, so we had a funeral for it and buried it near the driveway. A few days later we decided to dig it up out of curiosity and were amazed and shocked to find it covered with maggots. On a vacation to The Ozarks one summer, the blacktop roads were thick with what Dad called "box turtles". He stopped and picked one up and we took it home for a pet. It really wasn't a very exciting pet – not a whole lot of interaction...it disappeared one day and we didn't miss it much. Mom told us (years later) that they had found the empty shell under the house. The first dog I remember was a very pretty, medium-sized mix. She had soft,



long, brown and white hair and we named her “Becky” (who knows why). She dug holes all over the yard and chased cars, so she mysteriously went to live on a farm one day while we were at school. Mom told us later the farmers had to put her down because she killed chickens. The next dog we got was a schipperke/terrier mix, “Skippy” (we were not very creative animal namers as young children). He was with us when we moved to Earlham and started out as a house dog until Mom made a couple of distressing discoveries: 1) she caught him take a running jump from floor to chair to kitchen table (a little too familiarly) and 2) she moved the filing cabinet to clean and found a spot that had been repeatedly used as a urinal. He became a very sad outside dog and I cried & cried, but she wouldn’t change her mind.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) - Charlie Sushi Plagman was a fantastic dog! He was caring and put up with a lot when it came to his three girls. Whether it was being the leading man in our dress up plays or being a pillow when we were sick, he was the dog for you. Granted, he did have bad farts and liked butter more than was healthy. Once we got Charlie we had to put the butter in cupboard instead of on the open microwave stand. We were also told he would be a 'small dog' but instead he just kept on growing to be a fat happy medium sized dog.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – Ooh: I loved Aunt Rose’s potato salad. There is none better. I liked pea and cheese salad with mayonnaise. Swiss steak was great. Also pork spare ribs baked with sauerkraut.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – Pumpkin pie

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – Anything Mother fixed, for we had a hired girl of questionable cooking abilities. When we went to Des Moines I ordered a ham sandwich and potato salad every time. I still love this combination.

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – Store-bought bread. Some students had it and it held together better than the homemade bread mother made.

Osa Osborn Bricker – I liked mashed potatoes and gravy with sauerkraut. I liked plums and dumplings.

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Grilled cheese sandwich

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Cereal and hot dogs

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Macaroni and cheese

Cameron Foster – Probably fried chicken a la Jenny

[Ted Foster](#) -- My mother's chocolate pie was the absolute! Next best was my own concoction -- white rice (the old fashioned stuff with the hull and all nutrients stripped away) and ketchup. My favorite meat was my own chickens. I raised bantams for fun and profit from an egg route. Unlike my brother, also liked cooked vegetables of all kinds, especially sweet potatoes, glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, any beans. We did not have uncooked greens, tomatoes, etc. very often, except summers.

[John Griffith](#) – Sweet potato pie

[Larry Hutzell](#) – Ice cream

[Diane Johnson](#) – Spaghetti

[Leah Johnson](#) – Spaghetti

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Boiled potatoes with hamburger gravy, and rhubarb pie

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) – We didn't have electricity, so no refrigerator: ice cream and Jello were rare treats.

[Megan Knight](#) – Corn on the cob. I was crazy about it and still am. I think that's a clear indicator that I'm truly Iowan.

[Nick Knight](#) – Mashed potatoes or scalloped potatoes made by Ruth Newlin.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – Mama was a everyday plain good food cook. We had a big garden, a fruit orchard and did a lot of canning. We butchered our own meat, had chickens for eggs and milked about 6 or 8 cows. We really didn't feel the depression like many people did.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – That's a tough one. I had several. I looked forward to Saturday mornings when Dad would make pancakes. He would put different things inside such as Canadian bacon or (my favorite), sunflower seeds.

[Alison Lohans](#) – Spaghetti and meatballs

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – My mother's pie and cookies

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) - Peanut butter cookies, home-made macaroni & cheese, Aunt Roses fresh rolls, Bing cherries in season, sweet corn

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - I don't know if it's a favorite food but it's definitely a weird food story, I used to take parmesan cheese, mix it with water and microwave it so that it was like a melted disk of cheese, it was really rubbery and salty. I also used to hide in the closet pantry and drink soy sauce right out of the bottle.

[Francis Osborn](#) – Fried chicken, or about anything that filled that empty space in the gut.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - I always liked bread (& still do!)-Grandmother Asenath made really good bread and rolls, and bread delivered by the "Omar Man" was a treat. Homemade ice cream was really good. And on Sunday evenings we would have popcorn while Mom, Dad, Aunt Gladys and Uncle Harold worked on "Cashword Cal"-this was a word game published in the Sunday paper and Harold or Gladys would take the entries to the postoffice in Des Moines to beat the deadline-I don't remember if they ever won.

[Otis Osborn](#) – Watermelon

[Emily Plagman](#) - Tang. Does that count? And hot dogs.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – Chocolate chip cookies--still my favorite! One of the best memories coming home from school was to get off the bus and walk into the house to the smell of cookies!

[Tom Plagman](#) - I have always had a sweet tooth: fresh hot cinnamon roll, apple/cherry pie ala mode. Dad's brothers raised fat cattle and always had a freezer full of beef. Steaks have always been a favorite. Dad's sisters had their own way of preparing them. Not the way you find in restaurants-- rare, medium, well done? These steaks were definitely cooked all of the way through but smothered in their own gravy, tender and flavorful.

[Sally Russell](#) – Food was scarce when I was little. I guess fried lunch meat and, of course, roasting ears. Joy and I had a contest to see who could eat the most. I think I ate 13.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – Roast beef & home-made noodles and ice cream & choc cake.

[Ellis Standing](#) – Because our meals at home were very basic and simple, I enjoyed the hot lunches we had at school. Especially refreshing when we came to lunch from football practice was the ice cold glass bottles of whole milk. (At home we drank skim milk because we sold cream.)

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Bananas in greenjelly and chocolate blancmange. I always asked for them for a birthday party up to being about 10. My mum made a crinoline lady

cake for my birthday several years. The cake was made in a pudding bowl and turned out formed the crinoline skirt. Placed on top after icing the frills and flounces was a china figure: head arms and body to the waist, which was placed on top of the cake. They always looked too nice to cut but I always gave in and enjoyed eating it.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - Mom has always been such a good cook – meals were very enjoyable. I especially liked fried bread. On bread baking day she would save some dough for small, flat fried bread or she rolled it out and put ground beef & onions inside, wrapped it and fried it – like individual ‘hot pockets’. She also made the best hash browns – fried in lard – that stopped after one of Dad’s cousins died in his 30s of a heart attack. Summertime always brought lots of fresh veggies and I loved raw green peppers and cherry tomatoes. Sometimes we would eat peas right out of the garden and the pod was the best part. After Mom sliced cabbage for slaw, my sisters and I liked to chew on the cabbage core. Cooked kale with melted Velveeta cheese was another favorite. We ate a lot of hamburger; once in awhile we had chicken and then my older sister and I fought over the chicken heart.

[Larry Standing](#) – The pizza in our school lunches was always a favorite. But now when I look back, I think it wasn't THAT good. More like cardboard with tomato sauce and fake cheese on it.

[Lee Standing](#) -- Homemade cinnamon bread fresh out of the oven with real butter, for one thing!

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) - Peanut butter, until my sisters told me it was made from worms. It took awhile for me to get past that, but now I like peanut butter again.

#### WAS THERE A FOOD THAT YOU WANTED BUT DIDN'T GET VERY OFTEN?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – We had a Thanksgiving turkey dressing that was bread, apples, prunes and raisins with lots of butter. A lot of food was seasonal: currant pie, corn on the cob, pickled pigs feet and blood sausage right after a hog was butchered.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – Pumpkin pie

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – Desserts

[Leah Johnson](#) – Spaghetti

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Crispitos

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Grilled cheese sandwiches

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Ice cream

[Cameron Foster](#) – No

[John Griffith](#) – Sweet potato pie

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Avocadoes

[Megan Knight](#) – I always craved junk food, because my parents were health foodies so our daily diet was heavy on brown rice, vegetables...Kraft macaroni and cheese was pretty high on my wish list.

[Nick Knight](#) – I loved pop tarts but they were rarely allowed.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – We loved it when we got the ice cream freezer out and bought a hundred pounds of ice for ice cream. Hamburgers were another treat for us.

[Alison Lohans](#) – Candy

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – Already-prepared foods

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – Twinkies. Candy, & pop. I remember having candied orange slices in the kitchen at Aunt Roses. I loved root beer floats!

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - Sugar, sugar and more sugar probably warm chocolate chip cookies. mom made the best but they were a special treat!

[Francis Osborn](#) – Yes, if candy counts as food.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - I really liked Edith Sarah Newlin's big sugar cookies. She kept them in a crock on the porch and we looked forward to any excuse to stop by her house.

[Otis Osborn](#) – Candy. (Is it a food?)

[Emily Plagman](#) – Pickles wrapped in cream cheese and dried beef.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – When we were growing up, we didn't have soda/pop very often. But the best thing we had that we liked was when Dad made onion rings or potato chips... wow, they were good. I haven't found too many places that serve onion rings like Dad made, except maybe "the Family Table" (a restaurant where Emily worked in Cherokee).

[Tom Plagman](#) – It never crossed my mind there were different foods outside the usual ones we enjoyed in Brooke Township. I never had a peanut butter sandwich until I helped sandbag in Cherokee during the Little Sioux River floods of 1966 or 1967, when I was high school. It was so good I think I had several. It was years later, after I was married, when I had another one and the realization came to me that this was the same exotic sandwich I'd had the day I helped keep the river out of downtown Cherokee.

[Sally Russell](#) – Ice cream.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – Not really--my mother liked to cook, so she would fix about whatever I wanted.

[Ellis Standing](#) – Ice cream, bananas and oranges

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Can't think of anything. Maybe we didn't have things as often as later when rationing was over, but mum was a good cook and always seemed to have something good to put before us and seemed to make it stretch enough

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - I had a horrible sweet tooth and always wanted more cookies, candy and dessert.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – Skotcharoo bars

#### WERE THERE FOODS YOU DISLIKED?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – One of the few things I disliked then was pickled herring, but now I love it.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – Asparagus. We bought Charles and Tacy Standing's place in Barnesville; it had an asparagus patch. I helped cut and sell it to the neighbors but I didn't want to eat it. Now I love it!

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – I hated liver and asparagus

[Osa Osborn Bricker](#) – I thought I didn't like asparagus.

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Yes

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Guacamole

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Pop, spaghetti, pizza, lasagna, popcorn, grilled cheese, salad and steak

[Cameron Foster](#) – Spam, sweet potatoes!

[Ted Foster](#) – One food I could not stand as a child was liver -- YYEECCHH!!

DoubleBarf!! And the having to clean your plate up before dessert may help explain my current weirdness according to my better half. (Now one of my favorites is seared beef

liver & onions.) Our family had a locker in town for our frozen stuff, and I was amazed how our half of a butchered cow would have so much liver.

[John Griffith](#) – Cooked cabbage

[Larry Hutzell](#) – Asparagus

[Diane Johnson](#) – Liver

[Leah Johnson](#) – Brussels sprouts, peppers

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Fresh liver with onions (after a hog had been butchered) were "OK" but were not a favorite. Also, commercial (not homemade) apple butter, since our parents would crush distasteful medicine in it on the assumption that it would go down more easily.

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) – Once in awhile the wolves would kill a sheep—there is nothing worse than mutton.

[Megan Knight](#) – Oh, quite a few! There were run-of-the-mill dislikes (onions, for example), but the food I really and truly despised was liver. I just couldn't choke it down.

[Nick Knight](#) – I wouldn't eat lamb because I thought it tasted like the shed smelled. And feeding the sheep was my job.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – I did not like squash as a child, but do now, and watermelon was not a favorite of mine—so many people exclaimed over its goodness that I just decided to save it all for them.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – Liver of any kin--chicken or beef. I was so glad when there was some kind of scare wth liver so we didn't buy it. And powdered milk. I always looked forward to Thanksgiving when Aunt Gladys would bring gallons of real milk!

[Alison Lohans](#) – Eggs, onions and avocados – (all of which I now like very much!)

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – Oatmeal cereal (but I love it now)

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – Eggplant, fish

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) – One time I made lima beans to convince myself that I really did like them. I covered them in melted cheese to help with the taste. Sadly, this did not work. --BLECK, powdered milk - adding it to my list of dislikes

[Francis Osborn](#) – Milk toast and oatmeal.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - Mom refused to waste any food and one year she decided that she needed to use the beef tongue from the freezer. She sliced it thin and made sandwiches for our picnic lunch at the State Fair. So while everyone else was enjoying food from the vendors, we had to truck back to the car and eat our picnic lunch-I could barely choke it down, and I was convinced I could feel the cow licking me as it went down.

[Otis Osborn](#) – ?

[Emily Plagman](#) – Powdered milk

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – Canned peas. I still don't like them—yuk!

[Tom Plagman](#) - Not really. I've always been kind of an omnivore.

[Sally Russell](#) – I didn't like sorghum very well. that is what we had on pancakes at Grandfather Standings. We had white Karo or boiled sugar at Grandma Frys.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – Spinach

[Ellis Standing](#) – I got sick after eating both cherry pie and peanuts. So for a long time I didn't like cherries or peanut products. I disliked cooked oatmeal because I saw little black specks in it. I never liked beets.

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Apricots (skins). Still don't eat from choice. Spicy foods.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - Liver, cooked spinach. Dad and I locked horns over cooked spinach once. I must have been about 5 years old and I remember just him and me sitting

at the table with my plate in front of me. I wasn't going to put that stuff in my mouth and he was going to sit there with me until I did. I think he finally gave up because he had better things to do. The next planting season Mom and Dad discovered kale and all of us liked it, which I'm sure was a big relief.

[Kate Wurtzler](#) - I fully admit I was a picky eater as a child. Major dislikes, beans in chili and raisins in cookies.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE CHORE?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – I wasn't very good at chores. I didn't like doing dishes. I wasn't very good at ironing when I was younger. I did like hanging clothing on the line.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – Cleaning my room.

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – Helping the hired girl with the dishes

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – Bringing in wood for the stove—I would wait until it was late, when it was so dark and scary outside.

[Osa Osborn Bricker](#) – I took care of the chickens and I was supposed to lock the chicken house door after they had gone to roost. Sometimes I forgot and had to go out after dark to latch the door... I didn't much like vacuuming either.

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Dishes

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Laundry

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Laundry

[Cameron Foster](#) – I've successfully repressed those memories!

[Ted Foster](#) - I guess helping washing dishes (too often) and cleaning out chicken poop out of the hen house (apparently not often enough!) were the worst chores. In winter filling the furnace hopper was a drag but the opportunity to drag out big clinkers from the furnace and drop them into a tub of water to create lots of noisy, smelly steam made up for the hard work.

[John Griffith](#) – Bringing in coal for heating in bad weather

[Larry Hutzell](#) – Cleaning my room

[Diane Johnson](#) – Getting eggs from underneath chickens

[Leah Johnson](#) – Getting tickled

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Washing the dishes

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) – We lived on a dirt road—walking half a mile in the mud to the car or the school bus...

[Megan Knight](#) – Weeding in the garden!

[Nick Knight](#) – I didn't like to be in the hay mow when we baled hay.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – I can't imagine a favorite chore -- I was not a conscientious child as my sister was. I know I hated to gather eggs in the summer as I liked to go barefoot -- can you imagine walking in a chicken house with bare feet. Living on a farm in childhood and youth made for many chores. Picking up cobs in the hog lot to help start the stoves and carrying kindling to the cook stove and chunk wood to the big stove were important chores. Before we had electricity we carried the drinking water from the barn well. We had a little cistern pump in the kitchen by the sink with soft water for bathing and washing dishes. We girls helped with the haying operation—driving the rack in the field, stamping down the hay on the rack, leading the horse putting the hay in the



hay mow, and sometimes even helping with the mowing. I believe picking up cobs in the hog lot was my least favorite chore.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – Handwashing dishes

[Alison Lohans](#) – Harvesting the almonds in August was always a hot, dusty, sticky job when family tempers sometime grew rather short as we all worked together (and of course, the littler kids didn't stick with it as long as I thought they should).

I also really didn't like going in the chicken yard to collect eggs and feed the chickens, IF it had rained .... And if we had a mean rooster!

Another chore I disliked was picking the green tomato worms off our tomatoes – they were “icky” and some of the large ones made a kind of clicking sound when pulled off plants. (They had green blood, if I recall correctly!) At least it was interesting feeding the tomato worms to the chickens!

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – Washing dishes(?)

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – Cleaning the bathroom

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) -

[Francis Osborn](#) – Weeding the garden.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - I did not like chicken chores- especially trying to collect eggs from under the hens, they would peck my hands. And the smell in the chickenhouse on a hot, humid day was not to be forgotten.

[Otis Osborn](#) – Milking the cows

[Emily Plagman](#) – Cleaning the tub

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – Doing the dishes, although I also spent a lot of time daydreaming and singing and pretending that a movie producer would come along and “discover” me a take me to Hollywood to make movies. I'm still waiting...

[Tom Plagman](#) - I didn't really have assigned chores. Dad didn't make us do stuff.

Cleaning out the barns, I guess, because there were no skid steerers—it was all fork and shovel.

[Sally Russell](#) – Don't remember any chores.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – Milking cows

[Helen Standing Spriegel](#) - I enjoyed gathering the eggs, except for the setting hens—they would peck. I would hold those hens' heads down with a stick while I gathered their eggs.

[Ellis Standing](#) – Weeding the garden

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Peeling dirty potatoes. They didn't come washed and bagged in those days.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - Washing dishes and cleaning my room. I was a pretty bad procrastinator. I remember both parents telling me “Kathryn, you could be finished by now if you hadn't put it off”. When I started cleaning my room I'd get distracted by the things I was supposed to put away and end up just playing. My sister tells me I would often just pile everything on the end of my bed and throw a blanket over it (my legs were short enough at that point that it didn't bother ME). Mom came up with using an allowance as incentive. We got one penny per year of age. She would hide the pennies in places that we needed to clean. She made a list of household chores to be done on Saturday morning and assigned one or two jobs to each of us. I remember dusting to find my 7 pennies.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – Unloading the dishwasher.

## WHAT SKILL WERE YOU PROUDEST OF WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – I refinished a bureau dresser for a 4-H project and took it to the Buena Vista County Fair.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – Singing

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – I could draw quite well and I could sing. I also was a good typist—high school age and beyond.

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – I could draw (sketch)

[Osa Osborn Bricker](#) – I was proud of climbing trees and hanging from my knees on a limb.

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Back hand springs, pitching

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Athletic ability

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Tumbling

[Cameron Foster](#) – Learning to whistle

[John Griffith](#) – Football

[Larry Hutzell](#) – Playing saxophone

[Leah Johnson](#) – Doing handstands on the couch, whistling

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Singing -- I was chosen to sing a solo at a school Christmas program in the 2nd grade.

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) – Being on the Honor Roll

[Megan Knight](#) – I was good at school—got good grades, did well on tests, etc.—but I think I may have taken it somewhat for granted. I think I was most proud of my artistic abilities; as a girl I drew constantly and wanted to grow up to be a painter. I was also a daredevil sledder.

[Nick Knight](#) – Running barefoot on gravel

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – Reva and I were taught to sew when quite young and I loved it. I often did the sewing for Mama and Reva on our White treadle sewing machine.

Another skill I learned early on was cutting hair. My first haircut was on Reva with my coloring scissors in the sandpile. Mama was not pleased but she was a wise Mother, as she pretty well knew I would try it again. She taught me to cut hair and soon I was cutting hair for the family, except for Daddy. This came in handy, as I always cut everyone's hair in my family after marrying too. Mama helped us learn to cook early, and of course do the dishes. Reva and I used to sing while she washed and I dried the dishes—she was an alto and I a soprano. Mama also taught us to garden early so we had skills we would use all of our lives. I was proud of my athletic ability -- I could walk on my hands, stand on my head and do back bends etc.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – Up until I was 10 I really enjoyed climbing the apple trees in the backyard I was good at it.

[Alison Lohans](#) – Two skills: I loved playing any musical instrument I could get my hands on – piano lessons from age 5 on, so I was reading music before I could read words; taught myself to play autoharp (with my parents' encouragement) when I was 7; and at age 10 started playing trumpet in the school band. I took pride in my music, and being able to play almost anything by ear made it so much fun ....

And also, I was proud of the stories I loved to write all the time. Fortunately, I was able to formally develop both of those skills and still love playing musical instruments (I

actively play cello, cornet and recorder in 5 groups as well as taking cello lessons for over 15 years - and I still teach a bit of music) – and have made a career of my writing.

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – Making scrambled eggs, cooking

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - I think one of the skills I was proudest of was making my sisters laugh and all of the imaginary adventures we had. I remember turning our weeping willow tree into various things, a prison, a castle, a gum-only store. I also remember making elaborate home designs with my friends out of the row of trees that lined the playground in West Bend. I also remember sitting in the back of the station wagon on long car trips playing the "no laughing" game

[Francis Osborn](#) – Butterfly collecting

[Joyce Osborn](#) - I learned to sew pretty early on and liked to design doll clothes. I remember making a doll dress out of one of Dad's old argyle socks-it was pretty unique! I still have the blouse that I made for one of my dolls-it had a set in collar and sleeves-pretty advanced project-I would try to copy just by looking at my own clothes.

[Otis Osborn](#) – Climbing large trees

[Emily Plagman](#) – Skills I was proudest of: my gymnastics skills and my excellent reading ability.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – Doing cartwheels. I could do them up until I was 55, but then became afraid that I would break something.

[Sally Russell](#) – I guess that I could keep up with Aunt Miriam when we walked the timber.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – I'm not necessarily the proudest about this, but I was GOOD at getting in trouble!

[Ellis Standing](#) – Hand milking cows

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Sewing and embroidery. My mother was a gifted needlewoman and taught me from a very early age. I made a skirt and blouse with hand embroidery when I was 13 and wore them a lot until I grew out of them!!

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - Singing, dancing and reading aloud. Mom and dad had a reel-to-reel tape recorder and they taped us talking, singing and reading. I was very shy about "talking on the tape" until I went to school, then I seemed to enjoy showing what I could do. My sisters and I enjoyed dancing to records. Our uncle had given us a Beach Boys album and we played it a lot and danced around; we took turns dancing in front of the full-length mirror so we could perfect our moves.

[Larry Standing](#) – I was good at trivia. We had a trivial bowl in class one year. My friends and I were on a team and we did fairly well.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – I could do cartwheels in a straight line.

WERE THERE THINGS YOU LEARNED HOW TO DO THAT NO ONE BOTHERS TO DO NOW?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – I avoided learning how to gut a chicken, though I was told I wouldn't make it far in life without such a skill. So far, I have survived

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – Bake rolls and bread

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – Ironing, baking

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Yes, some of my basketball skills

[Kylie Cripps](#) – No

Morgan Cripps – Animals and nature

Cameron Foster – Making slide whistles from willow twigs.

Ted Foster – Ironing pants and shirts (days before permanent press) without burns and creases was a skill my mother made sure I mastered -- she was not going to be embarrassed but did not want to do the ironing either. The things Tom Plagman learned I did also, especially being able crank start the garden tractor, which has a lot to do with finding the ‘sweet spot’ in the compression before give a tug and not getting your thumb broken off or arm whacked in the process. By the way Tom – what is “walking the beans”?? As far as plucking and dressing chickens, that is a skill I still volunteer when the Good Earth Farm <http://commonfriars.wordpress.com/> affiliated with our church replaces its laying hens.

John Griffith – Farming with a team of mules is mostly out of style now.

Larry Hutzell – Change a car tire. Use a manual typewriter.

Diane Johnson – Cursive

Nancy Johnson – We churned our own butter when we were on the dairy farm.

Birdie Standing Kisling – Build a fire in a cookstove. Mow grass with a push mower.

Iron with irons heated on a stove. Heat hard water to wash clothes and hang them to dry.

Sew with a treadle machine. Bathe in a tin tub with water carried from the pump.

Megan Knight – A lot—my childhood was pretty anachronistic in a way that was sometimes annoying then but I appreciate so much now. I learned how to do things like stoke a woodstove, use a hand pump, clean clothes with a wringer washer (and dry them on the clothesline).

Nick Knight – We saved our bread bags.

Lisa Lansing – I learned to sew now some people just throw the clothes away if its missing a button or they glue seams etc

Alison Lohans – Darning socks! And no, I don’t bother to do it either, because I wasn’t good at it!

Mildred Standing Lohans – Canning fruit, making jam and jellies, and baking bread from scratch.

Konya Martin – Shuffling cards.

Savanna Alliband McGrew – Cooking!

Andrea Plagman McMillan - I remember picking berries and cherries and hanging up laundry on the line. I remember conquering frogger, playing oregon trail and learning how to use this new thing called email- is that still around?

Francis Osborn – Yes, but I can't remember them.

Joyce Osborn - Mom taught us how to iron and I always liked to do it. I still iron most things now, even though not too many people bother these days with the no-iron fabrics. I still write thank you notes, and that seems to be a dying art. Also, I am proud that our family has kept up “The Family Letter”- a round robin that circulates regularly to this day.

Otis Osborn – Climbing trees!

Emily Plagman – Memorized phone numbers

Michele Conway Plagman – play jacks

Tom Plagman - Priming a pump, walking the beans, trying to start the fly-wheel Model A

John Deere in the spring. Invariably we'd get a guy from town to come out and do it—

Winfield Erickson or someone else from the John Deere shop.

Sally Russell – Most everything.

Wilbur Russell – Everything...

Ellis Standing – Hand milking. Off-farm work for other farmers: I led a horse to pull loose hay into the mow. I learned to block and tie on a wire hand-tie baler.

Janet Standing (UK) – Making over fabrics /garments into something else. Mixing and matching fabrics for collars, cuffs, pockets, yokes etc if there wasn't enough fabric for the chosen style. Often it worked out better!! Making things generally go as far as possible. Learning to be economical. I went on to have a fashion shop with my mother and we also made wedding gowns, bridesmaids dresses and evening gowns etc.. After that I went into teaching women's crafts in a further education college where I taught mainly adults. Later when I married, I just enjoyed the challenge of reusing good fabrics. I made Richard a coat from a grey wool coat of mine and lined the hood with red fur fabric. The coats were all double breasted and could be buttoned the boys or girls way so Helen came in for some of them later.

Kathy (RN) Standing - Cheri and I sewed from very young ages. We sewed for our dolls by hand, especially after we got Barbie dolls. We'd sit on the floor with Mom's "rag bag" (all the scraps from her sewing projects) and sew away. Then we'd have "fashion shows" and march our dolls around to show what we'd made. After we moved to the farm we learned to walk beans, drive a tractor, bale hay, milk a cow.

Larry Standing – I would write letters to my sister in Ohio. Nobody seems to write letters anymore.

Kate Plagman Wurtzler – Memorizing phone numbers.

DO YOU REMEMBER SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS FROM WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?

Ruth Plagman Alliband – I used to read about 90 books a year—I would borrow them from the Kirchner Carnegie Library in Peterson. I also used to buy paperbacks through the school—I think through the Scholastic Company. Sometimes I would borrow books from the State Library in Des Moines—they would come in the mail. I also borrowed books from the school library and from Aunt Alice. I read *Little Women* at least 4 times. I liked dog stories and horse stories.

Rachel Thomas Baughn – Any book about horses. Think there was one about Quaker heros.

Jean Standing Biere – I was never fond of reading, and my Grandmother Hite always sent me books instead of toys.

Gladys Standing Bierma – A book of bible stories at the Meeting House. I would walk over and read it and look at the pictures for hours. (No one knew I was gone!!)

Osa Osborn Bricker – I read Nancy Drew books, all of the horse books I could find (*My Friend Flicka*, *Thunderhead*, *Green Grass of Wyoming*, *Black Beauty*, *Smokey*, etc.), *The Yearling*, *Old Yellar*, The Bobsy Twins books and lots of others.

Kayla Cripps – *Love You Forever*, *The Giving Tree*

Kylie Cripps – *Larry*, *The King of Rock & Roll* and *Every Soul A Star*

Morgan Cripps – "I love you for always. As long as I'm living my baby you'll be..."

Cameron Foster – The Sherlock Holmes stories.

John Griffith – The Rover Boy series. I think there must have been a couple dozen books.

Larry Hutzell – *Little Black Sambo*, *Old Mother West Wind*, the Hardy Boys series.

Diane Johnson – *Little Yellow Chick*

Nancy Johnson – *Little Brown Koko* (about an African American boy), *Bobbsey Twins* books, *Heidi*

Birdie Standing Kisling – We didn't have a lot of books. I read *Little Women* over and over and cried and cried when Beth died.

Megan Knight – The anachronisms included no television in our home, so I read constantly, devouring books. Early on I was a big fan of C.S. Lewis's Narnia books and anything by Madeleine L'Engle (starting with *A Wrinkle in Time*). I got interested in science fiction and fantasy and read a lot of that in high school.

Nick Knight – I loved *Black Beauty* and *Old Yellar*.

Wanda Standing Knight – Mama read to us—one on each knee in the big rocking chair before going to bed. Winter evenings are particularly in my memory, as we would be sitting in front of the big heater with the gas light sitting on the table behind us. The books I remember her reading the most were *Laddie*, *Under the Country Sky*, *The Dingo Boy* (I believe it was Grandma Standing that read that one) and *The Girl of the Limberlost*. I rarely could find time to read, but Reva always had her nose in a book. I remember there were times I hid her Elsie Dismore books so she would play with me. In fact we found two Elsie Dismore books under the bottom drawer when we moved it to the shop for repairs years later. We had a lot of books such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Little Black Sambo*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, Longfellow and Robert Louis Stevenson poetry books that were hand-me-downs.

Lisa Lansing – Laura Ingalls Wilder series. *Encyclopedia Brown*, Trixie Beldon and *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle*.

Alison Lohans – At ages 9-10 I devoured every horse book I could get my hands on: *The Black Stallion*; *Island Stallion*; *Brighty of the Grand Canyon*; and many others. Another favourite book that I read countless times from age 10 and up was *The Silver Pencil*, by Alice Dalgleish – about a girl who eventually became a children's writer!

Mildred Standing Lohans – Louisa May Alcott books

Savanna Alliband McGrew – *Finn Family Moomintroll* by Tove Jansson

Francis Osborn – *The House on the Cliff*, a Hardy Boys book. I don't remember the author. That one was read to the class by the teacher in school. I didn't read much on my own back then. I was too interested in being outside.

Joyce Osborn - We would go into the Earlham Library and I remember a book about "the little people" that lived in the woods and one day they found a baby shoe, and they all wondered how it had gotten there-I wish I could find that book! I also liked "*The Cave Twins*" and "*Maida's Little Shop*". When we visited Mildred & Bernard Standing, Mildred let us go upstairs to read comic books that had been Elsie's- I especially remember "*Swiss Family Robinson*".

Otis Osborn – *Little House on the Prairie*

Emily Plagman – *The Phantom Tollbooth*; *Narnia*; *A Wrinkle in Time*

Michele Conway Plagman – My first books were two Nancy Drew books that my brothers gave me when I was in first grade. I have never quit reading and buying books since. I used to read so much and be so involved in my books that my mom would get angry when I didn't respond to their requests to do my chores or whatever. It used to be a family joke that I read mystery stories, but once some people came to our house and probably were "casing" the house but I was oblivious. A week later, we were on vacation



and got robbed. And I didn't even see them when they were at the door asking "directions". My nose was in a book.

Tom Plagman - I didn't do books.

Sally Russell – Ernest Thompson Seton books

Wilbur Russell – Comic books

Ellis Standing – Our family read some books aloud, such as *Black Beauty* and *The Yearling*.

Janet Standing (UK) – Enid Blyton was a favourite author in the 1950's. Famous Five series. The Faraway Tree books. Some of the books we still have and Richard and Helen enjoyed them too. We spent a lot of time reading to them and Richard loved to be read a bedtime story even when he was able to read for himself.

Kathy (RN) Standing - All the Dr. Seuss books, all the Little House books, *Ricka, Dicka & Flicka* and *Snip, Snap & Snurr* (–the female & male versions of Scandinavian triplets who had lots of different adventures), the Nancy Drew mysteries.

Lee Standing - One that I liked was *Moonfleet* by John Meade Falkner.

Micah Standing - *Call of the Wild* by Jack London.

Kate Plagman Wurtzler – *Rikki Tikki Tiva*, *Little Black Sambo*, Boxcar children books

## WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND NOW?

Ruth Plagman Alliband – *Nine Hills To Nambonkaha*, Sarah Erdman; *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, John Perkins; *Walking With Wolf*, Kay Chornook and Wolf Guindon; *The Wolf At Twilight*, Kent Nerburn; anything by Louise Erdrich; the Harry Potter books.

Rachel Thomas Baughn – Mitford series by Jan Caron. Anything by Sue Monk Kidd.

Jean Standing Biere – *Through Golden Windows* – 10 volume set.

Osa Osborn Johnson – I would recommend the Medford series.

Kayla Cripps – *Middle World*, *Stolen Children*, *39 Elves*

Kylie Cripps – *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight*, *Take A Bow*

Morgan Cripps – No

Cameron Foster – See above.

John Griffith – *The Perennial Philosophy* by Aldous Huxley; *The Universe is a Green Dragon* by Brian Swimme

Larry Hutzell – *Screwtape Letters*, Pat McManus books

Leah Johnson – *Little Yellow Chick*

Nancy Johnson – Any of the Dana Stabenow mysteries (set in Alaska)

Birdie Standing Kisling – *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones Into Schools* by Greg Mortenson; *Walking With Wolf* by Kay Chornook and Wolf Guindon

Megan Knight – Barbara Kingsolver's *Poisonwood Bible*, Jeffrey Eugenides's *Middlesex*, Ann Patchett's *Bel Canto*, Kazuo Ishiguro's *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Arthur Golden's *Remains of the Day*...

Nick Knight – *The Shack*, And Rick Straussman (I could go on and on, but that one comes to mind as special.)

Lisa Lansing – Mainly authors: Patricia Daniels Cornwell, Joann Fluke, Iris Johanson the Eve series.

[Alison Lohans](#) – I admire Phillip Pullman’s “*His Dark Materials*” trilogy. There are many other favourites as well, such as Barbara Kingsolver’s work – but none of these other favourites have come to mind lately. One of my close writer friends Sharon Plumb has written a very intelligent teen science fiction novel titled *Draco’s Child*.

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – The books written by my oldest daughter, Alison Lohans. (NOTE: Alison released 3—or maybe 4!! Books in the spring of 2011: *Picturing Alyssa*; *Dog Alert*; *Collapse of the Veil*; *Doppelganger*; *Germy Johnson’s Piano War*.)

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – *Emma Brown* by Clare Boylan

[Francis Osborn](#) – Mysteries by Robert B. Parker. Westerns by Louis L’Amore. Cosmos by Carl Sagan (though that one is outdated by now), *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking (also outdated).

[Joyce Osborn](#) - I like the Alexander McCall Smith series “*The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*”- they are really charming. Also, Bill Bryson’s “*A Walk in the Woods*”-about walking the Appalachian Trail or his “*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*”- about growing up in Des Moines in the 50’s.

[Emily Plagman](#) – *Fierce Invalids Home from Hot Climates* (Tom Robbins); *The Count of Monte Cristo*; *American Gods* (Neil Gaiman)

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – Any of the Anne McCraffrey books. The books are fantasy, but she is an amazing storyteller.

[Tom Plagman](#) - Bill Cosby's books; *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose and Ambrose’s Band of Brothers series.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – Books by Ernest Thompson Seton.

[Ellis Standing](#) – Political and environmental topics: *Plan B* by Lester Brown; *Deadly Spin* by Wendell Potter.

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – American author Karen Kingsbury is a prolific writer and I came across her books on holiday in Jersey. She wrote about a family with faith but like every family they had ups and downs and made mistakes. The author takes you through the experiences in a very readable way. Anthony was as hooked as I was. There are about 22 novels all told. Although they follow on they are readable as stand-alone titles. Her final book in the series is about to be published. Our pastor’s wife had read some of the books in S. Africa but had trouble getting all the titles written at that time. She was delighted when she saw my bookcase. We now have a shared library in the church and folk have joined in reading.

Karen Kingsbury has written other series. One about how families were affected by 9/11 – the Twin Towers collapse was a very moving yet readable series and gave many insights into the tragedy and consequences for everyday folk.

Another favourite: USA author Beverley Lewis. Many of her books are about the Amish. (We met and fellowshiped with a community in Southern Ireland we discovered quite unexpectedly on holiday with friends in 2009). We were invited to a home for lunch and made most welcome.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - *To Kill a Mockingbird*, anything by Dick Francis, the *All Creatures Great and Small* series, anything by Mark Twain, *Jane Eyre*, *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*, *The Boys from Brazil*, *The Shepherd of the Hills*...and on and on.

[Micah Standing](#) - Jack London books.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – The Hunger Game Series and the Dresden Files

FAVORITE MOVIES?

Ruth Alliband – *Once Upon A Time in the West, The Last Emperor, Field of Dreams, Big Fish*

Kayla Cripps – *Hook, Journey to the Center of the Earth, Journey 2*

Kylie Cripps – *The Hunger Games, Twilight, Grown-Ups, Just Go With It*

Ted Foster – *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou, Up, Field of Dreams, The King's Speech*

Emily Plagman – *The Last Unicorn; Labryinth; Zoolander; Big Fish*

Michele Conway Plagman – *Stardust, Muppet movies, Letters to Juliet*

Kate Plagman Wurtzler – *Anastasia, Star Wars, Arsenic and Old Lace*

## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING MOST?

Ruth Plagman Alliband – I like to garden and spend time outdoors. I also enjoy shopping in ethnic grocery stores and cooking something authentic from another culture.

Rachel Thomas Baughn – Singing, knitting.

Jean Standing Biere – Singing, computer work, reading biographies and studying genealogy.

Gladys Standing Bierma – Read and sketch. Gardening, but I'm not able to now. I will plant a few vegetables on my deck. I do have a large garden space though.

Osa Osborn Bricker – I love to have my grandchildren and great grandchildren (and of course the kids) around. I enjoy Sunshine Circle.

Kayla Cripps – Sports

Kylie Cripps – Dancing

Morgan Cripps – Tumbling

Cameron Foster – Reading, editing video, sitting on the back porch with a cocktail.

Ted Foster - Playing the fiddle and jamming bluegrass and oldtime with friends.

John Griffith – Being with family and friends, Quaker Meeting

Larry Hutzell – West Des Moines Community Band

Nancy Johnson – Socializing with friends, archaeological & historical research, genealogy research, knitting & quilting

Birdie Standing Kisling – Reading, painting, time with our children, grands and great grands. Winter in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Megan Knight – Riding bikes, swimming, reading, writing, teaching, spending time with my 3 younger sisters.

Nick Knight – Being with my family

Lisa Lansing – Armchair genealogy (genealogy through the internet),

Alison Lohans – Playing music in my music groups; visiting with people; travelling; reading; walking my dogs; having quiet, relaxing time at home

Mildred Standing Lohans – Visiting with family, reading, bird watching, doing jigsaw puzzles, visiting with friends.

Savanna Alliband McGrew – Cooking, traveling

Andrea Plagman McMillan - I would say out of all of my favorite things to do (movies, tv, knitting, reading, time with family and friends, playing with our animals) my favorite would be laughing with family and friends.

Francis Osborn – Hiking, reading

**Joyce Osborn** - I like to sew- designing and piecing quilts. I like to browse in quilt shops and book stores. I love to plan trips, do all of the research, and then , of course, to go on the trip. I like to get together with old friends, go to lunch and remember fun stories.

**Emily Plagman** – Running, spending time with my friends, family, and Nicholas Frank, of course.

**Michele Conway Plagman** – Being with my husband and daughters, traveling, trying new places to eat, reading, gardening.

**Tom Plagman** - Working with my hands, riding my lawnmower, I am intimidated by building things—I like to have a coach, but there is satisfaction in having built something. (Recently, the monster cat tree...). I was into growing tomatoes for awhile, a little less so now. I like cooking; I like to eat; I like to eat my cooking.

**Sally Russell** – Sewing.

**Ellis Standing** – Reading and gardening

**Janet Standing (UK)** – Depends on the weather and time of year. Still into crafts, and card making – not so much sewing these days. Cooking and baking. Some gardening as time and my back allows. Reading when I'm not too busy with other things.

**Kathy (RN) Standing** - Reading and singing

**Micah Standing** - For me it's tv, video games, movies, family and reading.

**Kate Plagman Wurtzler** – Reading, spending time with friends, and right now sleeping...

**DID YOU EVER GO TO THE LIBRARY TO BORROW BOOKS WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?**

**Ruth Plagman Alliband** – Yes. My library card was #919. The library was a Carnegie library in Peterson, IA called the Kirchner-French Memorial Library. The Kirchners were the first white family to settle along the Little Sioux River, before the town of Peterson was established. Mrs. Heywood lived on the ancestral farm. The Kirchner log cabin was in a corner of the house lot and school groups used to come there on field trips. Mrs. Heywood had gone to school at the Sorbonne. She had returned to her home town; she was often at the library when I was there to borrow books. Once I had left my library card at home with some books that were already checked out. The librarian suggested I could use one of my uncles' library cards. (The cards hadn't seen much use in quite awhile, and I was unaware that my uncles even HAD library cards, but I checked out that set of books under Uncle Paul's name.)

**Rachel Thomas Baughn** - I remember going to the bookmobile but maybe that was when my daughter was little in Georgia... In Barnesville I read all the horse books they had, and we checked out records, too. Many of the records (like the Mikado) were ONLY checked out by our family! We learned the words to the Mikado and folk/cowboy songs by Sam Hinton.

**Jean Standing Biere** – No

**Gladys Standing Bierma** – Sometimes, yes.

**Osa Osborn Bricker** – Over the noon hour at Dexter I would walk to the library and cart home several books a week.

**Cameron Foster** – Sometimes it was too far to walk.

**Ted Foster** - No, did not go to the library at all when a kid. Later worked 37 years as a librarian.

**John Griffith** – I don't recall there being a library where I lived.

**Larry Hutzell** – Yes

**Diane Johnson** – Not very often.

**Nancy Johnson** – We loved going to the library in whatever town was nearest to where we were living at the time; we could even check out magazines and phonograph records.

**Birdie Standing Kisling** – No

**Megan Knight** – Every week my parents would take me and my sister to the public library, and we would check out towering stacks of books.

**Nick Knight** – Yes

**Wanda Standing Knight** – I don't remember going to the library, but I'm sure Reva did.

**Lisa Lansing** – Yes mom would take us but when we got older she let us ride our bikes to the library. It was about a 3 mile ride.

**Alison Lohans** – Always! We went at least once a week, and we were only allowed to check out 5 books at a time. I really wanted to check out many more than that!

**Mildred Standing Lohans** – Louisa Mae Alcott's books.

**Savanna Alliband McGrew** – Yes

**Andrea Plagman McMillan** - Yes we went to the library, I still go to the library! I remember checking out those big movies on laser discs, I remember our library in West Bend had lots of fun kids events, someone recently reminded me about baby sitting classes they had there. I loved scary books like Steven King and Goosebumps and Sweet Valley High books. In Storm Lake they had a great big library and I remember mom teaching clowning classes there and hanging out for hours there on summer days.

**Francis Osborn** – No

**Joyce Osborn** - Yes, I remember that I thought it was pretty magical that it was free! When Nancy was old enough to drive, we thought it was pretty great that we could go on our own to either Madrid or Boone to hit the library. We checked out records, too. My favorite was an album of Scottish folk songs, and we accidentally left it in the car in the sun and warped it. I can't remember if we had to pay for it with our babysitting money or not, but I was devastated that I could never listen to it again!

**Otis Osborn** – Yes

**Emily Plagman** – I STILL go to the library to borrow books. I also remember renting puzzles from the library as a child, and apparently they don't do that kind of thing in downtown Chicago because I asked a librarian if they had any a few weeks ago and she looked at me like I was crazy.

**Michele Conway Plagman** - We went to the library in Ankeny as a child--the Kirkendall library. I don't know who the Kirkendahls were, but it was pretty small. But it was cool when the bookmobile came and brought different books than the ones that I "devoured" at the library. I also remember going to a library in the northernmost suburb of Des Moines. It smelled like a library, and was probably a Carnegie. I still love books and now get them on ebooks, but don't enjoy them as much as a "real" book. All the fonts are the same--from the bible I have downloaded to the Agatha Christie to "Jane Eyre". The feel of the pages and the illustrations of the covers all add to the dimensions of the enjoyment of reading.

**Tom Plagman** - The only time I did I lost the book... You can imagine the fines on that



one—they're still adding up.

[Sally Russell](#) – Yes,

[Wilbur Russell](#) – Can't remember that I did.

[Ellis Standing](#) – No

[Lee Standing](#) – We looked forward to going to the library! First I read my own books, and then everybody else's.

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Yes quite regularly. The library was at the end of the road where we lived and on the way to and from school.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - Every Saturday. In northwest Iowa we went to Primghar – the librarian was Bena Farnsworth and she had the books separated by age group. We could check out as many books as we wanted, but only from our age section. If we read all of them – so sad, we just had to read them again until we got older. After we moved to Earlham, we were excited to find out we could read any book in the library. The problem there was, we were limited to checking out 4 books per week. I'd get home and read all 4 that evening and have to wait a week to read again.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – Like Andrea said, we went to West Bend and Storm Lake libraries. But whenever I read a book about a small town library, I always picture the small one in Peterson.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GOT ELECTRICITY?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – Do you remember when your neighborhood got electricity? Barely. I think electricity might have come to our farm when I was under 2 years old, so perhaps around 1948. It was a rural electric coop.

Rural electrification came late to our corner of Iowa. I don't remember using the outhouse, but it was still standing when I was little. We still had kerosene lamps that we kept in case of power outage, and the wood-burning stove had been relegated to the basement where it was still handy, again in case of a power outage. Over time it became less and less likely that the wood burning stove would be used, even in an emergency. I think I was there (probably about 4 YO) for an electrical event one stormy summer afternoon. Mom and I had just come up from the garden with a pail full of green peas . We were sitting on the porch and shelling them as lightning started to crash and thunder to growl. We may have just gone inside when lightning came through the phone line and exited out the speaker of the candlestick phone, bounced and crashed against the far wall and shot back before discharging. THAT got our attention.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – No.

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – No. We always had electricity in Earlham.

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – Yes. Before we got electricity, I remember reading late until the lamp ran out of kerosene.

[Osa Osborn Bricker](#) – I remember when we got electricity. Suddenly everything was easier. Water was piped to the house, we acquired a water heater, an electric refrigerator, an electric cookstove, an electric washing machine, a radio, an indoor toilet.

[Cameron Foster](#) – We always had electricity, but it was surely The Best when we got indoor plumbing!

[Ted Foster](#) - We had electricity well before I came along, believe it or not, but do remember when TV came to the area (about 1946). The neighbors had an enormous



console with a 5-inch round CRT and all we kids collected there to watch Howdy Doody and westerns, then our parents bought a 17 inch (Wow!) in 1948 so we would stay at home more. However not long after the neighbors bought a color TV and we kids returned to our old ways.

Personal computers-- At work we were using 'workstations' by 1970 for punch-card systems. My first personal computer was an rather awkward Osborne which used a cassette player for storage and memory. Then in 1983 I graduated to a 'portable' Kapro, a real screamer which had some memory and two floppy drives -- Still have it, a heavy aluminum case, weighs about 30 pounds and according to the manual it is equipped with a "Zilog Z80" microprocessor with 64 kilobytes of RAM, and two 5¼-inch double-density floppy-disk drives and uses the CP/M operating system and has a modem. It came with a nice suite of software for word processing and spread sheets, and internet use.

[John Griffith](#) – I remember when my grandparents got electricity.

[Larry Hutzell](#) – No

[Diane Johnson](#) – No, already had it.

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Electricity had already been available in all the places we lived.

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) – We were off the main road, so didn't get it until the 1940s

[Megan Knight](#) – No—despite the anachronisms, I did always live in a home with electricity. (We didn't have running water until I was in high school, though.)

[Nick Knight](#) – No

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – I remember when we got electricity—even a bare bulb hanging in the kitchen was a miracle. The old ice box was replaced with a refrigerator, it was time to think of a bathroom—can you just imagine the loneliness of our old outhouse? Before we had electricity we carried the drinking water from the barn well. We had a little cistern pump in the kitchen by the sink with soft water for bathing and washing dishes.

I also remember when we got a dial system phone. We had a lot of fun with the old crank phone as everybody had a different ring and there were 13 on our line. There was one gentleman that listened to every ones ring and we could hear him breathing. Mama and Aunt Caroline used to talk Norwegian so he couldn't understand. There were all these telephone jokes like -- "Why don't you let Prince Albert out of the can."

[Lisa Lansing](#) –It was there when I grew up. I do remember when we first got cable tv though. We enjoyed playing bingo with Terry Rich as the host.

[Alison Lohans](#) – We always had electricity.

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – No

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – No

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - For me a more relevant question on the electricity would be when did we first get computers/internet- I was in probably 3rd or 4th grade when we lived in West Bend and we had this tiny computer with a black screen and green type, we played ...simple games like oregon trail, I remember the school computer lab and how coveted the color computers were in junior high. I remember first getting an email address and surfing the web in high school. The only times I remember no electricity were when we had a power outage from a storm and making "hobo" dinners in the kitchen.

[Francis Osborn](#) – Yes, we lived in the country and a pole was set up in the barnyard to support the service line. Dad wired the house and barn.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - We always had electricity, but we lived on a farm for awhile that had no running water. I hated the outhouse. It was quite a treat when we moved to the next farm and it not only had running water, but the bathroom fixtures were a beautiful light blue color-what a treat to take a tub bath again.

[Otis Osborn](#) – About 1948.

[Emily Plagman](#) – Not when we got electricity but I have the same memories as [Andrea McMillin](#) of losing electricity.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – We always had electricity, but I also remember times of losing it and the fun we had in realizing how much we depend on it.

[Tom Plagman](#) - We always had electricity, but the old party line phones... I remember the whole progression from above-ground lines to the lines begin buried. I don't remember our phones going out because of ice storms, but I can easily remember that happening. When I was going to school at Iowa State there were telephone poles with 30-40 lines on them down between Carroll and Ames. An ice storm came along and took them all down. It was a tangled mess... They never put those lines back up; they switched to underground cable.

[Sally Russell](#) – I remember when Grandfather Standings got it, everyone else already had it.

[Wilbur Russell](#) – The late 30's I think.

[Helen Standing Spriegel](#) - We didn't care whether we had electricity or not, we had a good light. Father rigged it up himself. There was acid in glass jugs down in the far corner of the basement, and we were not to go over there. We put mantles on. When the lights got dim, we had to go upstairs and pump for about a minute (on a pump that was like a tire pump) — The lights got bright when you pumped it up. I remember I counted 60 pumps and then I quit. I didn't care if we got light or not.

[Ellis Standing](#) – Yes, I remember when we did. It was so fun to turn a switch and have light.

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – No. Before I was born.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - No. We always had electricity. However, we didn't always have a TV. Mom and Dad had won a TV soon after they were married, but felt it wasted too much time, so they sold it, to much criticism from the community (!). I always felt the lack of TV – especially when school friends talked daily about what they'd watched the night before and I was left out. I remember my parents talking with my first grade teacher about it and she agreed that we were better off without TV. We finally did get a TV at an estate auction when I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (I'm told they did it on my account), but Mom & Dad came up with an ingenious way to limit our time spent watching it. Mom carefully cut 7 small “tickets” for each of us. Each of my tickets said “Kathy – ½ hour TV”. Every time I wanted to watch TV I had to pay by putting the appropriate number of tickets in the teapot. When all my tickets were in the teapot, no more TV until Monday. This led to lots of planning ahead of time – we spread the newspaper on the floor and studied the TV listings to see what was on that week and what we'd feel like paying tickets for. Walt Disney on Sunday evening was “free” and we all watched together.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – No, but we first got email (Juno) in 1998 and we first got internet in 2000.

## IF YOU LIVED ON A FARM, WHAT ANIMALS DID YOU HAVE?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – We had draft horses (see above). When the oats harvest was ready, four farms (Uncles Paul and Ted, the rest of the Plagman uncles, Niebuhrs, and us) joined forces with some hired help from town to thresh the oats. While my grandfather was still alive, and for awhile after that, the families continued to use the power takeoff-powered threshing machine and the McCormack-Deering binder to process the cut oats. The men would go through the fields setting the bundles of oats the binder left behind into shocks—beautiful little stacks of 6 bundles set together with 4 underneath and two slanting across the top like a roof. When the threshing machine was on a farm, the men would drive hayracks around the field with their teams of horses forking the shocks of oats into the rack. When the rack was loaded, they would drive it over to the threshing machine and fork the bundles one at a time onto the conveyor belt that carried the bundle into the threshing tines of the machine. A fan was blowing by the machine to carry the chaff away. The grain fell by gravity down into a spout which funneled it into a waiting grain wagon. The straw came out the side onto a baler, which bound it up into bales. The bales were then forked onto other hay racks and carried to the straw stack to be piled in the field or to the barn to be elevated into the mow with an elevator. This was a big production, and usually took a couple-three days per farm, at least at our farm. All the horses would stay overnight in our barn, and I would get to feed them one large 48 oz. juice can full of oats each. The teams I remember were Maisie and Daisy; Kit and Rock; Dick and Dan; Cap and King.

We always had one cow who lived in the cow pasture across the lane from the house. Sometimes she would stand by her water bucket in the corner of the pasture closest to the house and look across the road into the kitchen window. This was the spot where she came to be milked. I think she got some cracked corn to occupy her mind and content her while she was milked. The last cow I remember was a beautiful little Jersey named Esmerelda. She had been a 4-Her's cow and pet. Once she ate too much succulent green grass in early summer and laid down on the ground with bloat. Dad ran out with a butcher knife and stabbed into her stomach to relieve the pressure, that would otherwise have killed her (by squeezing down her windpipe and cutting off her oxygen supply??) She survived, but thereafter had a leakage of digested greenstuffs and grain oozing out through that hole.

When Dad got animals from the west to fatten for market, they were not all cookie-cutter uniform. Sometimes he got rangy longhorn-type cattle from the west with huge brand scars. Once a very ill rancher from Belle Fourche, South Dakota traveled to our farm to meet my dad and see the animals he had raised as calves in their new home. The large flocks of lambs to fatten were also wonderfully individual-looking. The calves he fattened when I was quite young were what he would have preferred to continue raising: black angus or Hereford cattle. He once went with a carload of his fattened calves to the International Livestock Exposition on the south side of Chicago in November, riding the freight train with them—he in the caboose and they in the cattle car. He groomed them with Brylcreem. He took another carload to the American Royal Livestock Exposition in

Kansas City once. I don't believe he took a train that time, though I can't remember. There were lots of train lines east to west, not so many north to south, though maybe there was one that went down from Sioux City to Kansas City.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) - We had a cow (who we sold to the neighbor because she kept getting into their pasture), ducks we had to kill because they got in a neighbor's garden, a dog we gave to someone in the country where he could run. Hamster got into the heating system. Had best luck with barn cats we tamed.

[Jean Standing Biere](#) - I lived in town.

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) - We just had five acres, so couldn't have many—we nearly always had 2 cows, chickens—once in awhile animals people gave us, a pig, a lamb.. We had geese, but the folks had to get rid of them after one chased me.

[Osa Osborn Bricker](#) - I remember when Dad still had Babe and Pet, the work horses. We had milk cows, hogs, cats, dogs, a goat, a raccoon, squirrels, crows, and a great horned owl.

[Cameron Foster](#) - Just dogs and cats, the occasional frog and assorted lizards.

[Ted Foster](#) - We had 27 cats, 5 dogs, 6 rabbits and about 70 chickens at one point.

[John Griffith](#) - Both sets of grandparents farmed. They had hogs, chickens, mules and bees.

[Diane Johnson](#) - Hogs, cattle, dairy cows, chickens.

[Nancy Johnson](#) - Milk cows & feeder calves, hogs, chickens, cats, dogs (one at a time). We played with neighbor's lambs & horses.

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) - Pigs, cows, horses, sheep, dogs, cats

[Megan Knight](#) - In addition to the dogs, cats, sheep and goats mentioned above, for part of my childhood we had a pony named Dolly Sue.

[Nick Knight](#) - Dogs, cats, sheep, horses, calves, rabbits and the like.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) - A diversified farming operation boasts a varied bunch of animals. We always had a few milk cows. My father had bad health from the time I was born, so the women of our household were not immune to animal chores. We helped milk the cows, fed the hogs, cared for the sheep and, of course, took care of the chickens. I used to sing to the chickens -- it made them bob their heads back and forth. If you sang to the cows they would gather at the fence with googly eyes. We used to put the setting hens in a little house away from the others to change their stubborn ways. Our hens were to lay eggs—not raise families. Living on a farm in childhood and youth made for many chores.

[Alison Lohans](#) - Chickens and cats. For a while, Samantha the goose.

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) - Cows and horses—we went places in a horse-drawn buggy. We had dogs, cats and chickens.

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) - N/A

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - We did live on a farm, when I was little we had pigs, in junior high we had cows and horses that were living on our land but we just rented the space to other people. We did have a horse named Chico that was blind and lots of dogs and cats and fish and hermit crabs and hamsters and a funny bunny named BUH.

[Francis Osborn](#) - Milk cows, beef cows, hogs, chickens, guinea hens, dogs, cats, mice and rats (the cats were lazy).

[Joyce Osborn](#) - We had dairy cows, pigs and chickens. In later years Dad often had a feeder calf that he would raise and then sell—he would always call it Bosco. We always

had an outdoor dog, first, Trixie, and then, Archie. And there were always cats, all outdoors, until we kids left home, and then Mom and Dad had an indoor cat.

**Otis Osborn** – Cows, horses, sheep, chickens, pigs, goats, dogs, guinea fowl

**Emily Plagman** – Besides the animals listed by Andrea, I also remember having a baby mouse I tried to save named Abraham. He lasted only a few days, but he was a good guy.

**Michele Conway Plagman** - We weren't farmers, just lived in the country outside of Ankeny, Iowa. but we had dogs and one year, had 11 salamanders in our backyard pool. Does that count?

**Tom Plagman** - One time we decided to ride the horses over to the uncles (Prince, the pony, and Rex, the palomino). I don't think we had put on saddles. We made it as far as Carpenter's corner. Then Prince threw me off and stood on my chest. At least that's what I remember—it seems like I was in the ditch. That was enough of that—we went back home. The horses knew the way; they just turned around and went, without the riders.

Then there were our efforts at 4-H baby beeves—two years of that. The idea of a baby beef is that you live with the animal for 8-9 months and they get so used to you that they are your friends and are halter-broke. We didn't really use that technique. We waited until a month before the fair and then tied them behind a tractor. They were barely halter-broke by the time the fair came around. The worst adventure was when Carl's calf died. We just picked out a western-range Hereford from the uncle's herd. That did not work very well. The calf broke loose on the fair ground and there was a general wild round-up to catch the calf. And of course the worst part was the inglorious end. After we had showed the calves, they were sold and put on a truck. And knowing where they were going we cried for their fate. Real tears in a young teen-age boy; I didn't want anyone to see me cry and there I was...

**Sally Russell** – I didn't live on a farm when I was young. Just after I was married, I did always love going to Grandfather's and Uncle Lester Boyle's farms.

**Wilbur Russell** – Cows, hogs, sheep & chickens.

**Helen Standing Spriegel** - We had a cow called “Gentle.” We would get her up next to the fence and then climb up on her back. We always had two cows. When there was a bad drought year and we didn't have any water for the cows, we went down to the creek and dipped water to bring back up the hill for the cows to drink. And then it was our job to stake the cows in the ditch so they could graze, then follow up when they had grazed down that grass and move the cows so they could graze a different patch.

**Ellis Standing** – A few dairy cows, a few pigs, sheep and sometimes chickens. A dog and some cats.

**Kathy (RN) Standing** - Mom and Dad started farming with 8 polled Hereford heifer calves. We always say Mom never swore until the first day those calves got out and she, Cheri and I had to chase them through the bean fields. I remember the day one of those 8 died after giving birth. It was Dad's first loss as an adult farmer and it was very hard on him. The calf was adorable – we named him “Little Orphan Arnie” and doted over him until he got so big he was kind of scary. He was very tame and would run at us and push us over, so we started just talking to him over the fence. The herd grew over the years and it was always enjoyable to see the baby calves in the spring, although they were never very tame, so we watched from a distance. We had one Holstein cow for a while - we milked her once a day and let her calf have the rest. We had one lamb – I can't



remember where Dad got it, but it was meant as a pet for my younger sister, Lori. One day it was jumping around while Dad mowed and got one of its front legs cut off below the knee. I held it while Dad attempted to reattach the leg, but it didn't work and ended up with a stump. It hobbled around like that for a long time, grew very large and kept the area under the fruit trees trimmed, then one day it just died for no particular reason.

**Lee Standing** - –For animals, besides dogs and cats, we raised dairy cows, goats, sheep, rabbits, pigs ducks, geese, chickens, and had 2 ponies. At one time, I had praying mantises and spiders for pets.

ARE THERE STORIES ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD THAT YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN TO REMEMBER?

**Ruth Plagman Alliband** – I loved to take hikes in the burr oak woods that my grandma and uncles owned. There were two “timbers” or “pastures” that were family private land. My brothers, cousins and I would hike in the spring to look for wild flowers, hike in the late spring or summer after a Sunday picnic, hike in the fall to gather walnuts and just be outdoors. I don't remember seeing a lot of wildlife, because there were a lot of us and we probably made too much noise. But the hikes always seems like good adventures, because there were many different ways to get through the woods.

**Jean Standing Biere** – I have written a brief history of my family, including not only facts but impressions. I lived two kinds of lives—one in Earlham with my Quaker family and one in Kentucky with my mother's Southern, warm, gentle and Christina (Presbyterian) family. This family was dedicated to making sure I grew up well-rounded in my beliefs and they showed me how to question and make good decisions.

**Gladys Standing Bierma** – Yes. I'm writing a book for that reason.

**Kayla Cripps** – Yes—when I was little and we were visiting Colorado, I would always run into the glass or screen door.

**Morgan Cripps** – I just want them to pass on my tumbling skills.

**Cameron Foster** – There may be some I'd like them to forget.

**Ted Foster** – Career-wise, as a research librarian, I would echo Michele that computers, digitization, and the internet were the biggest changes, where the whole world's knowledge became readily accessible. There was a big change on how we worked, first starting with word-processing, then with the internet and email. Productivity soared and the boundaries for everyday friends/colleagues and work projects became truly worldwide. During my career I adjusted well to these new technologies in terms of using as 'tools-of-the-trade' but not so 'personal' or casual as now seem to be the case. Early habits die hard. When I grew up the pace of life was slower, a person only did one thing at a time, and a person was sometimes alone and knew how to entertain themselves, to play. I retired before the advent of social media and widespread of cellphones and have been able to avoid the plunge. The total 24-7 emersion, as now seems to be the case with so many students, into the world of cellphones, personal assistant tablets, and the social media where one is never alone is a bit scary. But will have to admit that when Katharin and I go to the grocery, using cell phones to complete our shopping list and find each other in the crowd is useful, but we do not broadcast on Facebook minute to minute trivialities of our lives.



**John Griffith** – A near-death experience of drowning

**Nancy Johnson** – Although we were always poor financially, growing up on a farm and being in the country was the best life -- and early on we happened to live on a portion of George & Deborah Standing's homestead north of Earlham, Iowa. (Later we lived several other places, but always in the Iowa countryside.) One summer Joyce & I had heard that it was so hot "you could fry an egg on the sidewalk." Having no sidewalk, we took a couple of eggs from the henhouse and took them to a large flat rock in the sunshine in the meadow north of the barn. The eggs congealed but didn't really "fry" -- we were so disappointed. Another time our mother (Bertha Standing Osborn) found a bull snake eating eggs right out of the nests in the henhouse. She was so enraged that she got Daddy's (Allen Osborn) rifle and shot the snake. She was amazed that the chickens remained totally silent after the loud bang (they probably thought they were going to be next!).

**Birdie Standing Kisling** – Many. They love to hear them, and I am writing them down.

**Megan Knight** – I don't have children, so I'll be passing on stories to my nieces and nephews and cousins! I think most of my stories would be about life in the country with no digital distractions of any kind. Inheriting my dad's old turntable when I was a teen was about as high-tech as I got—I think a lot of the stories I'd tell would be about the comedy of becoming a teen and wanting to enjoy pop music and wear fingernail polish, yet living in a situation where I bathed in the creek and didn't have a TV that would teach me cultural references.

**Wanda Standing Knight** – We didn't have TV so we played games. Indoors we played authors, rook, dominoes, and pit. Out doors we played 7 steps around the house, anny anny over, dare base etc. I loved the sand pile, making playhouses from junk, making cardboard doll houses and cutting out catalog people for my families. I even had a hat pin for a floor light and put lightening bugs in it to make it light. I loved to tease my sister. One time we were walking up the lane from Grandpa and Grandmas and every step I would take I would say "dam, dam dam -- " Reva was crying and told mama that I would be going to hell. One time I heard some of the older ladies in the meeting saying they had a list of the Quakers who were going to heaven. As I listened in and heard the names -- I decided I didn't want to go to heaven anyway.

**Lisa Lansing** – When my children were little I tried to get them interested in making up stories on the spur of the moment just before bedtime. I do tell them they are lucky they have a dishwasher or a dryer and some conveniences like that.

**Alison Lohans** – Yes... During my years as a parent of young children, though, it never seemed like my childhood stories were important – so I dropped the ball in terms of passing along this kind of information – I guess because nobody ever seemed interested? Yet my parents certainly told us stories about *their* childhoods. So now I've been puzzling over how to pass along some of my childhood stories. A few tiny aspects have found their way into some of my children's books – but I don't know that my own kids recognize this.

**Savanna Alliband McGrew** – My stories from when we traveled in India.

**Andrea Plagman McMillan** - I think my favorite stories are about me and my sisters playing make believe, whether its the famous gum store, the hidden rooms in the lilac bushes, or the many different playhouses we had. I remember having this tiny pink barbie skillet and making mud soup in it, it was about the size of a half dollar. Since we lived on a farm when we were young we realized early that we had to become each others friends.

**Francis Osborn** – Yes. I've included them in my memoir, *The Rebels of Quaker Divide*.

**Joyce Osborn** - I just wish that more of my cousins and their children could have spent more time with Grandmother Asenath and Grandfather Gilbert and gotten to know them better. Asenath always had such a positive outlook on life and Gilbert had such a dry sense of humor. They enjoyed a simple life and never complained. They really worked together and complimented each other well. We used to have picnics in Des Moines for Mother's Day and Father's Day—mostly the Iowa cousins, but it was always a treat when the Ohio cousins came, too, and those precious visits when our Costa Rican family came. Grandfather made little toys for us—cars made out of spools, a rubber band, matchstick and a piece of soap. Also, he could weave toothpicks together to make a stick figure lying on a bed—he would light one edge of it on fire and then we would see the “man” hop out of bed. He taught me how to play cat's cradle with just a length of string. They would pass the evening reading their magazines: he, National Geographic, and she, *Ideals* or *Workbasket*.

**Otis Osborn** – Walking 2 miles uphill (both directions) to school.

**Emily Plagman** – I echo what Andrea said. I remember having an old chicken coop as a playpen. Mom and dad had put a couch in it, which made it seem more house like. We also used to go to the field and get baby corn and eat it while we were playing. We also used to have play markets where we would try to sell our goods - cherries, gum, microwaved parmesan cheese.

**Michele Plagman** – We had a swimming pool in our backyard and spent hours there in the summer. We also had an asphalt driveway that seemed long (it probably wasn't) and we would ride our bikes up and down it for hours. We lived in the country, although not on a farm, and had to amuse ourselves also. I was at least 4 years older than my siblings, so didn't play with them as much. I read and read and read. And I remember playing house at my house in a playhouse and in the bushes, both at home and at school. Lots of imagination needed there!

**Tom Plagman** - Well, that's what this is all about.... I remember climbing things with Carl. We saw a movie about the Matterhorn and then we started climbing trees. We tried to climb the windmill, but part of it had been blown off. Of course in the Matterhorn movie they had ropes. We didn't; probably a good thing. We had a tree house in the big forked boxelder tree in the cow pasture.

**Sally Russell** – Yes, I wrote them down for them.

**Wilbur Russell** – Yes. I was raised during the depression but they can't believe that really happened.

**Helen Standing Spriegel** - Earlham was about 3 miles south of us. I kept bringing this story up and my sister Florence would say “No, you can't remember that!!”: (I would have been about 2 ½; it was at the time my sister Bertha was born.) I was on the porch with Father; he was wringing out clothes from the wash tub and transferring them to the rinsing tub when the whistle started blowing in Earlham—it never blew except at noon, and this was not noon. Mother was in the living room, where she had just had baby Bertha. They told me later that the whistles signaled that World War 1 was over. The name Bertha means “Peace.” That was how she got her name.

You want me to tell a story about when someone else was bad? All my brothers and sisters were good—I was the only bad one. Once I had to sit in a chair for an hour.

Another time I had to go to bed upstairs early and only had bread and water for supper. Not only that, they took away my silver dollar and gave it to the neighbor. This was because I had scratched a picture on his car door with a stick. You see, I was entertaining the other kids in the Meeting House parking lot when there was a quilting circle. When he saw it he asked everyone there who had done it and we all denied it. \_\_\_\_\_ told on me; I always felt bad that he had done that.

We liked to play in MUD!! You can mold all kinds of things in that mud—people, furniture, houses. I molded a life-sized baby. I put it on a table out in the yard for everyone to see. Then Aunt Mattie came along... (She was related to Grandfather Henry—his second wife??) She was a mean old gal. She never had any kids, and she didn't like us. She told us we were too old to be playing in the mud. Father borrowed money from her once and then owed her money for years and years. He wouldn't pay her. He only paid her a little bit. When I got my first job I told him to pay her off and get her out of his hair.

**Ellis Standing** – Coasting on a old buggy. Adventures of living on a farm, flooded creek, learning to swim. Sister Alberta pulling me out of the swollen creek when near drowning. Climbing trees, skipping rocks, etc.

**Kathy (RN) Standing** - I wish I could write a series of books like the Little House books that could convey what my childhood was like; how magical it was, how hard it was. Since I don't have children and won't have grandchildren, this project would be for my satisfaction only.

**Kate Plagman Wurtzler** - The one I always remember is when I was rolled down the stairs. Emily and Andrea loved to roll down the stairs. One day they decided I should roll down the stairs. They tricked me into laying at the top of the stairs and told me they weren't going to roll me down the stairs. Then they pushed me down the stairs. I started crying and mom got mad.

One day Emily and Andrea were sequestered/grounded in their rooms for a couple of hours. I was allowed to be outside my room, but had to stay upstairs. We decided we needed a message system, so we rigged up lines of yarn between the rooms and pulled a strawberry basket along the path. This was ludicrous because the rooms were only 5 feet apart.

WHAT CHANGES IN THE WAY YOU NOW LIVE AS COMPARED TO WHEN YOU WERE VERY YOUNG SEEM TO YOU TO BE THE GREATEST?

**Ruth Plagman Alliband** – Long distance communication is much more casual. When I was growing up, we made long distance phone calls only for business or for something really important. We wrote letters to catch family members up on our news. Email gives instant gratification. I have a whole drawer full of saved letters from my postal correspondents. Sometimes I print off an email to save it too. Travel is also more casual, probably because I have been living in a short segment of time when long-distance travel is affordable. When I was in the Peace Corps in India, nobody's family members came to visit because overseas travel was a Big Deal. Also, travel to a third world country was intimidating. I do see in my Peace Corps memorabilia scrapbook that Milton Friedman

(THE Milton Friedman) and his wife were at the Indian Embassy in New Delhi when their daughter Susan was married there (and India volunteers like us invited). Other volunteers who got married in service were married without family present.

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – We live a warm and relaxed life in retirement. We have all necessities and we are blessed to be close to help for whatever we need—great doctors, wonderful art, magnificent churches, fine food and close friendships, and our daughter and her family.

[Gladys Standing Bierma](#) – Freedom to do as I wish—not too many rules (that I give myself!). Running water, electricity, better heat, TV.

[Kayla Cripps](#) – Yes--now we have nicer stuff and play sports and make more friends.

[Kylie Cripps](#) – Yes--Technology

[Morgan Cripps](#) – Yes, life isn't fair now..

Cameron Foster – Life is different now--I'm not sure it's any better.

[John Griffith](#) – Transportation, electronics, medicine

[Larry Hutzell](#) – Communication

[Diane Johnson](#) – Technology

[Nancy Johnson](#) – The easy availability of cell phone and email messaging -- wouldn't Henry and Eunice Standing have loved to have "called home" to Iowa while they were homesteading in Dakota Territory in the mid- to late-1880s? Our only telephone in the 1940s-1950s was a wall-mounted wooden box on a party line. Long-distance calls were expensive and a rarity.

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) – Communication, computers, media, TV—we were isolated on the farm. We had school, meeting, family get-togethers, that was about it.

Megan Knight – Without question, the digitization of our lives. As a Rhetoric teacher at the University of Iowa, and as someone who loves reading and writing, I'm grateful for all the ways in which the internet and smartphones and etc. connect us and make information so accessible, but it's also a strange new time.

[Nick Knight](#) – The greatest change is my body of course!!! Ha! But socially I think people are starting

To become more accepting of diversity of all kinds and that is positive.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – I'm in a retirement facility now, so this is quite a change from the time of youth and the raising of a young family. I have wonderful memories of vacations, camping, playing games, singing and eating with my dear husband Roy and our family. We were a happy, active Quaker family. The thing that hasn't changed is the love we all have for each other from the beginning of my life to now. It was difficult losing my parents, my sister, and then Roy. I've always said that I feel sorry for all the women in the world that didn't get to have Roy for a husband.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – Oh that's easy--the Internet! I really find it has changed how I do cooking, reading, bill paying, recreation and more.

[Alison Lohans](#) – Computers have made so much possible that used to seem impossible or, at best, very tedious. This includes the ease of banking. (See below as well, re “not been for the best”)

Ease of travel! When I was a child our family took long car trips for our vacation (which I really miss, not having done long car trips now for nearly 30 years). But now the accessibility of plane travel has really opened up the world in exciting ways!

I grew up in a large family, and always had people around. But now I have lived alone (with my pets) for the past several years. This was something I used to fear, before my youngest son left to go to graduate school in another province – and I knew he wouldn't be moving back. The amazing surprise is that I love living on my own!

[Mildred Standing Lohans](#) – I no longer have cousins nearby to visit very often.

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – The extent we can be connected to friends, even at a distance. The amount of media we are inundated with every second of the day!

[Andrea Plagman McMillan](#) - We had our first computer in West Bend and it was a green screen. We only had a wall phone at home and minutes were non unlimited.

[Francis Osborn](#) – I can do what I want without asking Dad or Mom. (Now I have to ask Naomi.) Probably computers and the internet are the greatest technological changes.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - We have a lot of time and labor-saving appliances now, and forms of entertainment. When I do the laundry now, I remember how grandmother would spend the entire day at it- Grandfather and Harold would take the day away from their work to help her. She would heat water and use a hose to fill the wringer washer. The “menfolk” would have to hang the clothes out to dry, and bring them in. Now, we just press a button and go off and do something else-she would be amazed. They grew and canned just about all of their food, and made everything from scratch.

[Otis Osborn](#) – Electricity, inside plumbing

[Emily Plagman](#) – We used to be able to dial the last four numbers of the rotary phone to call friends in our area code. Now we have to dial all 10 digits. And we had a bag cell phone we had in the car for emergencies that looked nothing like the cell phones we have now.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – Although the Internet and computers are two of the biggest changes, the one that has impacted how I live my life on a daily basis is the cell phone. Not just to make phone calls to chat, but to keep track of everyone and to be safe on roads and to have the convenience of personal use without phone cards or making charges for long distance calls. I don't even have the Internet on my phone (I am on the computer all the time and decided to forego the need to be attached 24-7). And that convenience is even more amazing.

[Tom Plagman](#) - Our running water went through a lot of changes. I remember fighting dad's pumps and wells and that whole system—how that has evolved into submersible pumps. I never used a hand pump. In fact we never used the windmill that I remember.

[Sally Russell](#) – I don't visit with extended family, aunts & uncles, as often.

[Ellis Standing](#) – It is nice to have reliable transportation now. Television and other modern appliances. Central heating.

[Janet Standing \(UK\)](#) – Central heating. When I was young we had a coal fire in one living room and the fire heated the water so gave off a little warmth where the pipes carried hot water to the bathroom. The rest of the house could be quite cold and getting dressed for bed and again in the morning for the day was often done as much as possible under the bed clothes!! There were fire places in the bedrooms but they were only lit when I was ill in bed with one of the childhood ailments. I used to lie in bed and watch the flickering flames make patterns and shadows.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - I am more permissive with myself; I turn the heat up if I'm cold, I heat my bedroom, I have air conditioning, I eat more sweets than I should. I'm probably less creative and more survival oriented.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) - Now we have cell phones and computers—people are so



connected.

ARE THERE CHANGES THAT YOU FEEL HAVE NOT BEEN FOR THE BEST?  
ARE THERE THINGS THAT HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL?

**Ruth Plagman Alliband** – There are new health challenges—more unknown environmental hazards, more food-borne toxins perhaps. We know as much as we ever have about the nature and roots of evil, but still remain frustrated in our ability to rein in violence, inequality, habitat destruction, poverty, economic disparity... The spectre of climate change/global warming is very frightening. My heart aches for the species that will probably go extinct in the wild as a result. Our own species will be impacted by lessened ability to produce enough food.

**Jean Standing Biere** – We both feel that some of the “plenty” is not the best for the younger generations. Thankfully most changes for us have been for the good. As for things that have not changed, the fundamentals are still alive and well with us—the ten commandments, love of family, dedication to church, and our desire to help others.

**Gladys Standing Bierma** – I grew up in a family of siblings; now I'm alone. So I'm lonely sometimes: I can “overdo” TV.

**Osa Standing Bricker** – When I was a kid it didn't seem like people were in such a hurry. People had more time for each other. We didn't have the technology we have now. Farmers cultivated their crops to eradicate weeds instead of spraying.

**Kayla Cripps** – Me and my sisters always fight, but when we were little we didn't.

**Kylie Cripps** – No, my life is perfect... Well, I wish all my dead family and animals were still alive.

**Morgan Cripps** – Yes and yes.

**Ted Foster** – Human nature is one thing that has not really changed that much which is both for the best and not for the best. Today, for example – Katharin and I made our rounds delivering food collected by the “Donation Station” at the farmer's market and from folks' own gardens to be distributed to the poor and we worked with many caring people each doing a little good toward a better community. Contrast this to some fanatic group or sick individual that someday will likely wreak havoc with a killer virus or something. This human nature is also reflected in our bi-polar technology – wonderful advances medicine, machines, the internet bringing the whole world in one community, but conversely we have seen the creation of mass destruction devices, computer and biological viruses as weapons, and end effects such as pollution and global warming. But for now -- before we think about very much -- our little rounds this morning makes Katharin and I feel a bit optimistic about the earth's future prospects, but we will all need to work on it.

**John Griffith** – Reliance on fossil fuels.

**Larry Hutzell** – Yes and yes

**Nancy Johnson** – TV dinners and highly-processed foods, and the sedentary life-style that is inherent in our television & computer-centered society now. Handmade quilts still make the best bed coverings!

**Birdie Standing Kisling** – Technology, texting, e-mailing and having to be constantly entertained interferes with relationships.



**Megan Knight** – The texting/smartphone stuff is creepy to me because people walk around like zombies. What hasn't changed at all? My teen students wanting to be in close contact with one another. When I was a kid I talked for hours on the phone to friends I'd just seen at school (on a party line, mind you—I drove some neighbors crazy, I'm sure)—that's fundamentally the same now, the equipment's just different.

**Lisa Lansing** – I cherish the music and art lessons I took but nowadays there is less emphasis in the schools on them so my children don't have as much appreciation for it as I did. What hasn't changed?: This is a tough one--all I can think of is that I am too tall. I still have trouble finding clothes that fit! Seriously I was shy and reserved when I was young and I am still that way.

**Alison Lohans** – Computers are an incredible blessing – allowing me to work more efficiently, and to be in constant contact with friends and family. But this is a kind of double-edged sword, as it is far too easy to spend WAY too much time at a computer, thus missing out on other things that in fact are quite important.

I'm not sure what kinds of food additives were used when I was really young; our family ate the fruit that grew on our trees, and my mother cooked most meals "from scratch". I'm very suspicious of so much of what is passed off as "food" in grocery stores and restaurants nowadays – but I'm also not able to be a complete purist and take firm control over *everything* I end up eating. I try to cook a fair bit "from scratch" ... but convenience and habit mean that my diet now isn't as healthy as what we ate as kids. Ideally I'd like to see everyone have their own organic garden patch! – which I do a bit of every year, but alas the convenience of grocery stores, with food literally from all over the world, not only opens up wide vistas of what we can eat, easily, but also means that we eat all kinds of things that aren't especially good for us.

Our family never had a TV until I was 15 years old – hence I wasn't particularly trapped in TV-watching and "media image". I'm really grateful for this! (but do have to consciously remind myself that there *are* good things on TV that I'm missing, because I hardly ever remember to turn it on!)

The presence of cars hasn't changed at all.

**Mildred Standing Lohans** – Living alone is not for the best. There probably aren't many things that haven't changed at all.

**Savanna Alliband McGrew** – All the additives in the foods we eat.

**Andrea Plagman McMillan** - I think that sometimes there is too much technology, we have the opportunity to respond to fast and for me that can be dangerous, we don't have the chance to think about what we want to say or write and send off quick messages without thinking about the implications. I think for me the same things have remained the same, not enough money, time or sleep! Good things that haven't changed, the importance of family and community.

**Francis Osborn** – I believe that SUVs and other gas hogs are an environmental disaster. Are there things that haven't changed at all? Everything changes. That's the one thing that doesn't change.

**Joyce Osborn** - Although cell phone are wonderful, I worry that people are becoming too dependent on constant communication. The availability of credit cards has made us want everything now- rather than saving up money for something first. Everybody expects to be entertained all of the time- I think it is good to have "down" time, and for children to figure out how to entertain themselves.

Otis Osborn – Everything is remotely controlled.

Emily Plagman – Changes not for the best: You pay more for less food. Things that haven't changed: Politics - yep, they are still divided

Michele Conway Plagman – As a history teacher, I see that there changes are inevitable, but that they are both good and bad. Just like a knife, changes can be used for good but also used for bad. The universal is that people have not changed. They have needs, wants, insecurities, but love and hate and learn and live, for whatever number of years they have.

Tom Plagman - The shrinking population of the number of people living in rural America is inevitable. It's been decreasing since 1900, whether it's for the best or not. Basic needs haven't changed at all—food, water. People need people.

Ellis Standing – I think we are just learning what damage we have done to the environment with our lifestyle of the past 75 years. In this community we had the advantage of a close-knit rural family. Due to changes of occupation, the family is now widely dispersed.

Kathy (RN) Standing - Society as a whole acts less disciplined and more entitled. We played outside all summer long without supervision – we were creative, strong, tanned, healthy and happy. The soles of our little feet were like leather. I now have to force myself to get exercise and I find it hard to live without comforts I take for granted that I didn't have as a child. I've lost a lot of that creativity, strength and happiness and I'm definitely not as healthy. The things that haven't changed are my love for my family and who I am at my core.

WHAT PLACE WAS THE CENTER OF YOUR UNIVERSE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD? IS THERE ONE PLACE THAT IS THE CENTER OF YOUR UNIVERSE NOW, OR ARE THERE SEVERAL?

Ruth Plagman Alliband – Our family farm was the center of my universe, with the satellite farms of my grandparents, uncles and aunts, and cousins. That was the Brooke community in Northwest Iowa, five miles from Peterson in the Little Sioux Valley.

My home community of Stillwater, Minnesota, where I lived now is my base. But my most important community is my Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Toastmasters friends. I enjoy visiting my daughter, Savanna's family in Livermore, California, but that is the center of their universe, not mine.

Rachel Thomas Baughn – Church is the center of spiritual and social life now, which is a return to life the way I grew up.

Jean Standing Biere – My Iowa home and my Kentucky home when I was growing up, and surely our greater home now, meaning the house, the community including our church, and our children and their families.

Gladys Standing Bierma – Home place. It's still home, but entirely new. My home place was torn down, as everyone was gone.

Osa Osborn Bricker – I guess I feel safest at home. Home is where the heart is.

Kayla Cripps – Family, friends and Melbourne

Kylie Cripps – Melbourne; several.

Morgan Cripps – My life

**Cameron Foster** – The hills behind our house are great for wandering.

**John Griffith** – As a child, the planet Earth; now—unfathomable...

**Larry Hutzell** – School (then); home and church (now).

**Diane Johnson** – Tree by the road that had a long-hanging branch close to the ground. I rode it like a horse.

**Leah Johnson** – Omaha Children's Museum, swimming pool.

**Nancy Johnson** – The Bear Creek community north of Earlham, Iowa -- even when we lived miles away from there --because so many of our relatives and friends still lived (and some STILL live) there will always be my primary "center." Currently my other "center" is a home (not yet entirely finished) I have built "on the prairie" near the Des Moines River in Boone County, Iowa -- and, once again, I am enjoying being in the country.

Anywhere that significant people in my life happen to be is also an ancillary "center."

**Birdie Standing Kisling** – Family. Still family now, and extended family meeting and our retirement community.

**Megan Knight** – The pond on our farm was the center of my universe in the summer.

Sitting at my Grandma Wanda's kitchen table has always felt centered, too.

**Wanda Standing Knight** – My home was the center of the universe when I was a child. In fact I think my home wherever it has been has been the center of my universe. I loved being a Quaker. Reva and I used to sit one on each side of Mama on the women's side, but I remember when I was sent to the men's side to sit with Daddy as I bothered Reva too much.

**Lisa Lansing** – Home. My mom babysat so I had friends to play with at my house. Now I still prefer to be home.

**Alison Lohans** – As a young child, our California home (and small farm) was the centre of my universe. In high school, the school band room was like a second home to me.

Is there one place that is the center of your universe now, or are there several??

I think there are multiple centres, now. One, definitely, is my home here in Regina, Saskatchewan. But when I'm in other places, I can feel very much at home as well. As a child, I always felt drawn to Iowa, Scotland, Germany, and later Canada. Canada quickly became home when I moved here at age 22. Later, Iowa and Scotland both met my expectations and I'm keen to go back. I haven't seen enough of Germany to get a good sense of it. As I love travelling, and am more able to do this now, I delight in exploring the world – both familiar places, and new places I've never seen before.

**Mildred Standing Lohans** – As a child, my cousins, and later the Friends School My double first cousins were the ones in the neighborhood. Now, my home in Reedley, California, and Fresno Friends Meeting and family members in the neighborhood—(I should say relatives, not family members...)

**Savanna Alliband McGrew** – I guess I have to say my home, past and present

**Francis Osborn** – Then: the creek that flowed through our farm. Now: Naomi's arms.

**Joyce Osborn** - When I was young it was our farm and the Bear Creek neighborhood. Iowa City has now become my home, but it sure is wonderful to have Bear Creek to come home to and to remember my roots.

**Otis Osborn** – Family, then and now.

**Emily Plagman** – Then: The farm house. Now: My family and friends; My partner in crime, Nicholas Frank; My dog Tigger

**Michele Conway Plagman** – My parents, especially my father, who was a controller. He

made decisions for me without taking into account my own interests and desires. Sadly, he has dementia now and we are making his decisions for him. The center of my universe now is my family and my faith.

**Tom Plagman** - There were two of them. The first was where we grew up, of course. But then the Uncle's place is the one that everyone called "The Home Place." Now: our house on the lake.

**Sally Russell** – I guess Grandparents' homes

**Wilbur Russell** – When I was young, I guess living by my Grandparents. Now we enjoy living in Iowa for 6 months and Arizona for 6 months.

**Helen Standing Spriegel** - Our house: there was a living room, a bedroom, a kitchen. There was a bed in the kitchen that we could fold up on the wall. When Mother was in the kitchen doing dishes, father would read aloud to us: *Martin Suzzlewit* (a Charles Dickens book). I liked those stories because of the funny names: Pecksniff, etc . There were two bedrooms upstairs. The house was across from the meeting house. They've torn it down now.

**Ellis Standing** – The farm I live on was the center of my childhood universe and is again now. The only change is in the name—it was the "Hardscrabble Farm" and now is "Serendipity Farm".

**Kathy (RN) Standing** - My family home was the center of my universe, wherever that home was. Now my own house is my center; Mom and Dad's house & farm come in a close 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT LIFE LESSON THAT YOU HAVE RECENTLY DISCOVERED?

**Ruth Plagman Alliband** – Since I joined Toastmasters ten years ago, I have felt myself empowered. I am able to communicate much more efficiently through practice speaking in my clubs and through the volunteer teaching/leadership projects that have spun off from that involvement.

**Rachel Thomas Baughn** – All families are wounded. All families are strong. Jesus can heal both present and past.

**Jean Standing Biere** – Live each day to the fullest, because at age 84 there may not be too many more.

**Gladys Standing Bierma** – I wish I'd stayed in better condition. Now it's too late for some things. It's hard to move around. At least I can still enjoy reading, and I recommend it.

**Kayla Cripps** – Take your time on your work even though your friends are done so you get good grades and will get a good job.

**Kylie Cripps** – No matter how much time you spend with someone, it won't ever seem like enough, but you have to be able to let go.

**Morgan Cripps** – Life is not fair

**Cameron Foster** – Take things as they come. Even things that seem bad on the surface can contain lessons of value.

**John Griffith** – The healing power of forgiveness and compassion..

[Diane Johnson](#) – Take time to notice the little things.

[Nancy Johnson](#) – Don't make unsubstantiated assumptions (check it out ahead of time!) when making important decisions.

[Birdie Standing Kisling](#) –

[Megan Knight](#) – Delegate, delegate, delegate. And sometimes saying “no” is the right thing.

[Wanda Standing Knight](#) – Life for me has been a wonderful adventure. I married a wonderful man, Roy Knight, we have 5 dear children that had children and now their children are having children. Oh yes, we have had trying times, but that is part of the growth of the Spirit. When Roy died in 2005 I thought I couldn't bear it, but there are new paths to travel and if you keep Love in your heart.

[Lisa Lansing](#) – In the last few years I have tried to look at the other side of a viewpoint and try to be more understanding of people.

[Alison Lohans](#) – Gratitude! We are responsible for our own happiness and can't rely on others. We have the choice of being thankful, and being happy – which is far superior to the opposite!

[Savanna Alliband McGrew](#) – To be grateful for the joys in my life everyday, even the little things

[Francis Osborn](#) – Death isn't the worst thing that can happen to you.

[Joyce Osborn](#) - Mostly 'this too shall pass' and what seems overwhelming today WILL get better with time.

[Emily Plagman](#) - Not all moldy cheeses are created equal.

[Michele Conway Plagman](#) – There are so many life lessons that I am learning as I grow older, one of which is that I am getting older and am a little fearful of the changes that may be coming in my body and mind. I am involved with my parents daily and even though they are 30 years older, I am afraid that I will not have time to do all the things I want to do before I am unable to do them. I also am learning that I still love teaching, even though I am getting ready to retire in a few years.

[Tom Plagman](#) – Getting old is not for wimps!

[Wilbur Russell](#) – How much your family means to you.

[Ellis Standing](#) – It's healthful to be grateful.

[Kathy \(RN\) Standing](#) - Vulnerability is not weakness; it is essential for a successful, wholehearted life.

[Kate Plagman Wurtzler](#) – My daughter is amazing.

WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT LIFE LESSON THAT YOU HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME?

[Ruth Plagman Alliband](#) – If one follows one's instinct for how best to use one's discretionary time, life is full. I can feel that the years I have lived and the choices I have made were sound and the time has not been wasted. Immortality is elusive, but as long as those who have loved friends and family members are alive, that individual lives on in our stories, memories and life choices.

[Rachel Thomas Baughn](#) – I come from an awesome family!

[Jean Standing Biere](#) – Christian faith is fundamental to a good life.

**Gladys Standing Bierma** – Trying to keep regular hours—mornings are always especially bad for me. If you feel a little “low”, just smile and make a joke out of some mishaps. A laugh a day helps. If you want to take a “good picture”, if you smile, no one will ever notice you had a “bad hair day” or you weren’t dressed properly, etc.

**Kayla Cripps** – Be yourself.

**Kylie Cripps** – Follow your heart.

**Morgan Cripps** – Life is not fair.

**Cameron Foster** – Put one's faith in reason, be kind to your neighbors, your environment, and your children.

**John Griffith** – The value of good family relationships

**Larry Hutzell** – Life isn't always “fair.” Achievement requires work (effort).

**Diane Johnson** – Listen to mom and dad.

**Nancy Johnson** – Simplifying one's life, and not having to have "more," is the key to happiness.

**Birdie Standing Kisling** – Relationships, especially family. I am so fortunate to have a wonderful family. Quaker values of simplicity, compassion, frugality, and promoting PEACE.

**Megan Knight** – Family and friends make the world go around!

**Wanda Standing Knight** – The Center of Life is the Holy Spirit that dwells in all mortals. If we can consciously let our living revolve around Light and Love we can live successfully, as we will be guided in all things. Humor is one of the most important spices in life.

**Alison Lohans** – Everyone has “that of God” in them; everyone has his or her own stories and dreams – and it is very important to honour and respect this in others.

**Mildred Standing Lohans** – Enjoy family members.

**Lisa Lansing** – Don’t do something that later you will regret.

**Francis Osborn** – Just about everyone will respond to any situation in any way he perceives as most advantageous for himself. And his response may be contrary to his professed moral code. You should keep this in mind when dealing with or negotiating with others.

**Joyce Osborn** - It doesn't pay to lie. Once Nancy and I were “horsing around” upstairs in a bedroom of a farmhouse we were renting when we accidentally broke a window. Even though it was winter we thought we just wouldn't tell mom and dad about this. I was so upset by this that when we sat down to eat supper, I was so stressed I couldn't eat a bite. Mom and Dad knew something was wrong and with very little questioning I confessed, and was amazed how quickly I got my appetite back!! I don't remember what our punishment was, but it couldn't have been as bad as that sick feeling.

**Emily Plagman** - Always be sure to thank (or be thankful of) anyone who provides you a service regardless if they are doing it for free.

**Michele Conway Plagman** – That I am well-loved by my husband and family, that God is there and I don't ever have to be truly alone (faith) and that I have incredible friends all over the world.

**Tom Plagman** – Positive attitude is everything.

**Ellis Standing** – A recipe of lots of hard work, adaptability, resilience, and a sense of humor. And a little bit of money helps too!

**Kathy (RN) Standing** - Love is really important.



Kate Plagman Wurtzler – Find a reason to smile every day.