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Rosa McKinney was born on a farm in Clark County on August 21, 1922, the daughter of Lafe and Edith Marrs. "The family farm was seven miles south of Kansas, seven miles north of Martinsville, seven miles east of Westfield and 14 miles west of Marshall.

My mom thought I would never get here," said Rosa. "They gave her whiskey, because you couldn't go to the hospital...I weighed over ten pounds, which was a big baby for that day and age."

Rosa grew up with two brothers, Joseph and Ralph and one sister, Audrey. Two other brothers died in infancy.

"Our neighborhood was very friendly," said Rosa. "We had ice cream socials, suppers. The kids all played together." She said that the kids walked over a mile and a half to the West Liberty School - even in the rain, sleet and snow.

"There was one teacher for eight grades," explained Mrs. McKinney. "She had to keep the fire going in the winter time, help the kids put their boots on and help the little ones get their coats on. She had to be a nurse aide all day, janitor and had to bring in water in a water bucket. We all had to drink out of the same cup in the back of the school. But we all grew up to be pretty old, so I guess it didn't hurt us... There was an outhouse. Just one. We didn't have his and hers. Just one for all of us."

"We would eat according to seasons...When the squirrels were young, we would have squirrel. We would go fishing. They would cut down trees where hives were to collect honey," said Rosa. The family never ate opos-

sum as many families did. However, her father liked frog legs, which she didn't care for. "We butchered and had garden produce," continued McKinney. "We ate well. It was during the Great Depression, and many people lost their farms."

Like most families, especially those living on farms, they would hang their clothes out to dry.

She recalled her mother making clothes out of cloth feed sacks. "Women made aprons, pillow cases and kids' clothes," said Rosa. "I even wore underpants made from them."

The family had a little dog in 1927. Charles Lindbergh flew over in a plane that year, which was big news, so they called the dog Lindy. She recalled that they would pull taffy and feed some to the dog. They would also feed him cracklins when they butchered.

Like all farm kids, Rosa and her siblings had plenty of chores to do. "I had to go gather the eggs," said Rosa. "I could never milk a cow. My sister could milk a cow. I could not get that milk to come down. She always said I did it on purpose, but I didn't. I just couldn't get it to let go. I think she knew me." She never got kicked. "I wasn't there long enough for her to do that," said Rosa.

In addition to the family garden, Mrs. McKinney explained that they would maintain a truck patch. "We had to hoe and pull weeds and pull produce," explained Rosa. "We would save potatoes and cut out the eye and plant it in the truck patch."

"Dad grew peanuts, which was quite a thrill. He also grew his own tobacco and cured it in the barn." She said that she never tried any of the tobacco. "I'm surprised," said Rosa. "We tried everything else. Especially

green apples. When they came on, we would eat a bunch until we were sick!"

Rosa says that she had seen her mother ring the head off of a chicken and one day she decided to surprise her mother and fry a chicken for her and have the meal ready. She selected a chicken and twisted and twisted but couldn't get its head off. "I finally went in and got a hatchet and board and cut its head off. That was the last time I fried chicken. I was through after that."

As for housework, McKinney recalled, "My mom had a kettle of water and boiled our clothes in the water and then we cleaned the porch with that water...We didn't have electricity for a long time."

She remembers playing a hand game called Indy Indy. "A kid thought he would be smart to throw a rock over. It hit me in the head. The blood just gushed! Well, they took me home. Of course, back then you didn't go to the doctor. You just treated it. Mom treated it, and by the next morning it was swollen. They took me to the doctor in Westfield, and he said he couldn't do anything about it. It was too swollen to stitch it, so I still have a scar on the top of my head where that kid threw that rock."

The family would go to Clarksville for small purchases. "We never bought thread, because my mom made thread," said Rosa. They would go to Marshall for larger purchases.

When Rosa graduated from grade school, her mother took her to Terre Haute, where she got a permanent. "I got a permanent with those big old heat rods, and I thought my head was going to break off! I had these frizzy, kinky little wound-up curls that I absolutely hated," said Rosa.

"That summer I went to

my aunt's, and I asked her to cut it off, and she did. She cut it how she cut the boys' hair. She was a country barber. When I went home, things weren't pleasant when (Mom) saw my hair. I think she paid 89 cents for that permanent. She was really unhappy. As time went on, I began to get over my straight hair. I wound up making that my profession."

Rosa recalled going with her mother to the Archer House, where Odelia Miller had a beauty shop. She remembers Mrs. Miller having a machine that looked to her like a torture machine. "When I first started beauty school, we had to use one in order to pass the state board. Back then Cold Waves were just being introduced. People said they would cause cancer if we were to continue to use them. Well, that didn't prove to be true."

Mrs. McKinney explained that the Cold Waves used chemicals rather than heat. "Some of the chemicals got hot, and we had a pointer and if it got hot, then you pointed this pointer, and we would raise it up and a blower would blow under there. Sometimes you wouldn't get there in time, and it was like a steam burn under the skin..."

"There was one lady who didn't like the way her color turned out," recalled Rosa. "She wondered about suing me and thought maybe if she sued me and I sued the company, then maybe we could both get money. She was no longer one of my customers."

Rosa went to beauty school in Paris. "If somebody would've told me when I went to school that I would one day own that school, I would have thought that they were off their rocker. Anyway, I went to work in Casey for Mrs. Shaffer, who had

been a beautician for a long time. She had me work three days. She called me in the back room one day and she said, 'Rosa, have you been to beauty school or where in the hell have you been?! You don't know anything!'"

Rosa says that Mrs. Shaffer re-taught her everything. "If she hadn't have," said McKinney, "I may not have been as successful as I turned out to be. But, boy, she rode me hard for that two years I worked for her!"

"She taught me how to get along with customers and how to treat customers. Not only that, but she showed me the business end. How to take care of a customer. If you have one customer for a whole year, it was worth \$500, whereas if you had a customer walk in and pushed away your regular customer, you lost that."

Rosa purchased a shop in Kansas and then moved to Marshall and purchased a shop where Odelia Miller had been. She explained that Charlie Morris owned the Archer House at that time. "It wasn't fancy. It was old and antique, but as he told his customers, 'The water's hot and the sheets are clean.'"

Fifteen years later, McKinney moved to Paris and purchased the beauty school. "I spent lots and lots of hours there," said Rosa. "After the day was over, I had to do all of these things that the state wanted. You really work for the state. I would stay and make sure all the sterilizers were clean, because we had inspectors that came in."

Rosa says that she lived in Marshall at first, then moved to Paris after her divorce from her first husband, Bill Knapp and lived in an apartment above the beauty school. She later moved back to Marshall after she met her second husband,

Bob McKinney.

Rosa had some opinions about today's hair styles. "The women on Little House on the Prairie had better looking hairdos than some of the girls on TV with it hanging out and sticking out. I am tickled to death that I don't do hair now. Not only that, but men started going to beauty shops, and I don't like that either."

Back in her day, they would do updos. "We would take a ruler and hold it so that it would come up twelve inches from the head. Back comb and lacquer. You had to use alcohol to cut the lacquer out of the hair, but the hairdo stayed for two weeks."

Rosa said that she was a friend of Lowney Turner Handy, "Lowney was different, but a nice different. Everyone associates her to the *From Here to Eternity* book and the writers' colony. If it weren't for her, there would be no *From Here to Eternity* book or any other (Handy Colony) book."

Rosa's memories of World War II began with the birth of her son in December 1941. "The nurses kept running into my room. Back then everyone smoked. They all ran in with their cigarettes, and they took the radio out of an old man's room and brought it in my room. They said the old man wouldn't care because he couldn't hear anyway. There were seven girls surrounding an ash tray. They were all up in the air thinking they would be drafted, doctors would be drafted. They would have to black out curtains over hospital windows. I never heard such stories. I was in there ten days. When you had a baby back then, you stayed in the hospital for ten days and were waited on like royalty. I just had to believe what they were telling me. What a time!"

Rosa's son died from leukemia at the age of ten. "I still have trouble with that," she said.

Commenting on the great advances in technology during her lifetime, Rosa commented, "Things have been going so fast lately. I had a six-year-old show me how to use an iPad. I can't grasp all of it."