

OUR STORY

BY: BENNETT ROBIN

On July 2, 1932, Pearl Broussard married me, Bennett Robin, in Duson, Louisiana and we started our life together in a small three room house on my father Frank Robin's property in Duson. We worked as share croppers for my father; these were the days of horse and buggy on dirt roads for transportation, with no electricity, telephones, and indoor plumbing or clothes lines. Clothes were washed by hand and hung on barbed wire fences to dry.

In our first year of marriage, our first son, Clayton, was born. There was very little money until crops came in around September, but we managed by trading eggs and chickens for groceries and medicine that we could not raise. Back then, once a month each farmer would take turns slaughtering a cow and all the neighbors would help and share the meat, then, in the winter, a hog was butchered at a farmers home with all the neighbors helping again sharing in the meat.

In 1937, there was a second child, a daughter who was stillborn. While still working as share croppers, 1942 brought the birth of our second son, Larry. As the family grew, it was necessary for me to work for extra money, so I would go St. Martinville and work in the cane fields for 50 cents a day, as well as in Henderson on the man-made levee, which was quite an undertaking then.

December 1943 saw the birth of twins, a daughter named Madeline and a son named Manuel. Madeline passed away when she was three month old. Around 1947 we were able to purchase 25 acres of land with a small house, which had cracks so large in it we could see the frozen ice when the weather got cold, but it was home. When I purchased this land, my dad told me I would never be able to pay for it, but five years later, the property was paid for, and I began to build a new home on it. At this time there was no central air or heat, but it was home.

In 1951 I gave up farming and went to work as a carpenter, and Pearl went to work at Trappeys Canning. Along with these new jobs came the need for an automobile, so we bought a 1951 Plymouth, which had to be delivered by the salesman as I did not know how to drive, but with the help of my sons, I learned.

With the 1960's came a little good fortune as oil was found on our property, which helped us buy our first television set. We were busy living life as most families— dealing with the ups and downs of daily life. Around 1975 we decided upon retirement, which gave us more time to spend on our hobbies.

I raised and fought roosters and Pearl liked to shop at the TG&Y in Rayne and make lots of trips to the feed store. I also owned two homes in which I did maintenance work and collected rent. We spent lots of time with our family and friends.

Clayton married Della and had a daughter, Cathy, and a son, Brett. Then he remarried and had another son, Sean. Larry married Carol and had two sons, Todd and Cole. Manuel married Ena and had three daughters, Madeline, Milly and Karen. As time passed, they married and gave us nine great-grandchildren.

On May 24, 2005 illness struck; I had a stroke and was hospitalized until June at which I returned home, but Pearl was not able to take care of me, as she has arthritis, and I felt it best to move to a nursing home. Pearl joined me in the nursing home, with much resentment on June 29, 2005. As time passed, she realized it was best for both of us. We would both like to thank Magnolia Estates for the excellent quality of care we have received here and special thanks to my son Manuel and his family who have been here for us as we needed.

Bennett Robin



