

Geraldine (Loftis) Denny
by Geraldine Denny
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Flower: Calendula
Birthstone: Opal



I was 3 ½ years older than my sister, Audrey Burton so I had to watch after my sister. I took her everywhere I went. We would walk to watch the dinner train and then pick up our mail at the post office. The train ran in the evening too. We took the train on Saturday to see a movie, mostly western movies. If you wanted to see any other movie you had to go through the week. Our neighbors who lived next door had a truck and they would take their daughter and I to the movies sometimes at night. We went to see "Gone with the Wind". We went next door and got water from their well. We would stay and play the game room. We went to the movies when we got older and met our boyfriends in the balcony.

I walked and took my sister to church and Sunday school. My mom was sick so I took over with my sister. I went berry picking with my brothers. We picked berries for our mom to can and we also sold berries for money. We picked black walnuts and dried them and then sold them.

I went eight years mostly to Double Springs school in Tennessee. Mom moved us to old Hickory, Tennessee and I went to school there for about two months. We then moved to Nashville for a few months and I went to East Nashville Jr. High School. We then moved back to Double Springs. It was during the war and so there wasn't a school bus. I was sick for about four months so I missed school that year. The next year I went for a few months and then I quit and got a job by the college in the cafeteria. I got married at the age of 17 and lived in Cookeville with Mr. & Mrs. Dilbert Bussell my in-laws.

I went to Louisville, Kentucky for two months and then on to Detroit, Michigan and lived with my Aunt Pearl & Uncle Denver Allison. I got a divorce from Eugene Bussell. When I was 19 years old I married Tim Denny, we were married on July 10, 1949. We had Ronald December 5, 1950, Richard February 5, 1952, Audrey June March 28, 1953. Ten years later we had Joe February 7, 1963.

When we were small our Grandfather John Tilford Jernigan would come to visit us on Christmas Eve. We would go to bed and our Grandfather would help our mom be Santa Clause. We loved our Grandfather but he passed away when we were young. My Grandmother was blind, my mom took her to Kentucky to get her eyes operated on for cataracts. It didn't help much. When I was only 4 years

old my father was killed while on duty as Deputy Sheriff of Putnam Co., Tennessee. A man shot him through a door.

I met Tim Denny in Detroit, Michigan on St. Jean street. We dated and went to the movies, neighborhood parks and around town. We went to Indiana and we didn't get home till very late. My Aunt was so upset with me that I promised her that I wouldn't do that again. We dated with Jimmy Ann and Ned Buckner, also with Luke and Katie Leftwitch. We did lots of things together.

I went home to Tennessee and Tim came there when his Dad passed away. We dated in Tennessee. When I came back up to Detroit we met again and got married in Bowling Green, Ohio. We lived in Detroit for a few months. Tim and I went back to Tennessee to live for four years. We lived on the farm he received from his Dad when he passed away. Tim went to farmer school in Baxter, Tennessee for four years. We worked on the farm and sold milk and corn. We moved back to Michigan in 1953 with the kids. Tim got a job with Divco for fourteen years. The shop left town so Tim got a job with the East Detroit School District and worked another 20 years. Tim retired and we lived in East Detroit now called Eastpointe.

We also had our cousins come to our Grandmother's in the summer. I remember playing with Dot, Bob and J.B. Goolsby.

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Milton Otis (holding Audrey Burton) & Essie Avo (Jernigan) Loftis



Dot Goolsby



L to R: Pearl (Jernigan) Allision & Geraldine (Loftis) Denny



Tim & Geraldine (Loftis) Denny



L to R: Audrey Burton & Geraldine Loftis



L to R: John, Geraldine & Jack Loftis



Geraldine & Joe Denny



L to R: Richard, Audrey June & Ronald Denny