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# Grandma Willie

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My great grandma's full name is Welma LaVern Fry Maggio. She was born in 1923. To this day she is still alive and thriving at age 99! She was born during the Great Depression. My papa said that they really had no money. She lived on a farm in Kansas. She owned many farm animals. Because she had farm animals they would use some of the animals for food. The foods they would eat included eggs, milk, lots of chicken, rabbits, rats, and squirrels. They would save the lard from the rabbits and use it for cooking. They only had one wooden stove. My Great Grandma attended a one room school. There was only one student in each grade. She was the only one in her grade. Everyday she would walk a mile to school. Her best friend was always one year older than her. They only got one pair of shoes a year. So to keep her shoes in ship shape for winter she only wore shoes in winter. So all the seasons except winter she would walk one mile to school barefoot.

In her home she had six rooms including everything. She and her siblings would sit on tall haystacks and watch dozens of cattle run past

their farm led by cowboys. Yes, there were cowboys at her time. She said that if they would have fallen off the haystacks they would have been dead. When she was 15 she moved to Colorado and had to look after herself. She took care of this old lady that had arthritis. My grandma is and always has been a very helpful and kind person. I asked my papa why she has lived so long. He said she said it was easier for her because she had good kids. She drank coffee, but she didn't drink alcohol. She stopped drinking coffee when she started having heart problems. Even as she became an old lady, she still took care of her garden at her home in East Carbon. My great grandma moved to East Carbon, Utah in 1947, at age 24. She was married at age 18, to the love of her life Carl Maggio. That's pretty crazy. My papa said in her time airplanes were just invented. He said that she would watch them race.

When she moved to East Carbon her husband had just finished fighting in World War II. My papa's brother Dave fought in the Vietnam war. In East Carbon his job was a coal miner. My papa said that he and his brother Dave had to work at the coal mine with their dad. He said

that she would make their lunches fresh. She did not put it in the fridge for them to get. It was totally fresh. Even if it was twelve o'clock at night she would make it fresh for her two sons. All the kids in the neighborhood would come to her house to play because she had a lot of fun stuff. She wouldn't care if the kids made a mess, they just had to clean it up. My papa was her first kid to go to college. That made her very proud. In his house they had to do chores. My papa made sure the coal furnace was taken care of. She did everything for her kids when they were younger. When they started getting older she said they had to do chores. Her kids shared rooms in their East Carbon home. There were no secrets between her and her husband. They were very close. Her husband was 87 years old when he died. She is very famous in East Carbon because she has basically lived there her whole life. She was a very productive lady and still lives alone in her original East Carbon home. She has a big swing in her yard that hangs from a giant walnut tree that all the grandkids have enjoyed over the years. Her swing is over 30 years old. Her oldest son Richard went back to

Kansas, got a walnut from her tree, brought it back to East Carbon and planted it there. When I told my mom that story she said she wanted to take a walnut from East Carbon and plant it at our new house. So basically it would have come from Kansas, to East Carbon, and to Cedar City. The tree is a little bit older, 77 years old. I hope you liked learning about my amazing wonderful fascinating Great Grandma Willie.