

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

*Carolina country if...*

*...you went to the barn  
at midnight on New Year's Eve to  
hear the cows pray.*

From Vivian Carpenter, Cherryville

**From Frances Farmer, Madison**

- ... You have relatives that are buried in the front yard.
- ... You have a special graveyard for your favorite dogs, cats, horses and other animals, and you visit them regularly.
- ... You had an uncle who would whittle wooden toys for you to play with.
- ... Your grandmother brewed JFG coffee in a cast iron coffee pot on a wood stove.
- ... Your grandfather always kept a new pair of bib overalls for church and special occasions.
- ... Your grandmother acted as a midwife and delivered several of her own grandchildren.
- ... All of the mules that your grandfather owned were named "Roadie".

**From Juanita Moore, Cornelius**

- ... You waited by railroad tracks for the train, so you could get candy that the engineers threw out the window.
- ... You took turns getting inside old tires to be pushed down the hills.
- ... Each Saturday you went to get a nickel surprise bag.
- ... Girls walked the plank across the canal and boys walked the pipes.

**From Vivian Carpenter, Cherryville**

- ... You caught crawdads and cut them open to get their pearls.
- ... You slid down gully banks and got so-o-o dirty.
- ... You cracked hickory nuts on the big rock near the spring box and picked out the goodies with a bobby pin.
- ... Your Mama made you hold the cow's tail while she milked to keep the cow from swatting flies and hitting Mama in the face.
- ... You had an old "jump plank" which sat on a rock near the barn.
- ... You coasted down the hill in your wagon from the Hickory Wagon Company.
- ... You had "chaney berry" fights.
- ... You made dolls from molly pop flowers.
- ... You lived between Hog Hill and Cat Square.
- ... You went "Christmas boogering."
- ... At Christmas your family went to North Wilkesboro to get your apples out of cold storage and buy peppermint stick candy and chocolates.
- ... Your Mom put a sassafras branch (cut exactly to your height) in the darkest corner of the closet to keep you from having pneumonia again, and it worked!

**From Gaylia Forbes, Hudson**

- ... You were flogged by roosters and chased by angry cows who disliked children.
- ... Thanksgiving weekend was hog-butcher time when you cured hams using a family recipe of spices, and women were busy canning and freezing pork.
- ... You shook up the big jar of milk in the refrigerator to mix in the cream before pouring a glass.
- ... Your father plowed and wagon-trained with mules and considered them superior and more beautiful than horses.
- ... Churches had singings and revivals when members visited each other's churches and then scheduled baptisin' at a designated spot in the creek.
- ... On rainy days, you settled atop the stacks of baled hay under the barn's tin roof with a book and a purring barn cat for company.
- ... Summer evenings neighbors visited on front porches while the children played and caught lightning bugs in the jar as dusk fell, and all was right with the world.
- ... Each spring, your mother took you spring greens picking through the fields and pastures, and she knew all the edible wild tender plants.
- ... You know that "leather britches" are dried green beans strung up to dry.

**From Nancy and Bobby, Stanly County**

- ... You always look forward to hog killing because for dinner you had pinto beans and baked back bones and ribs, fried tenderloin and cathead biscuits.
- ... Your mama would tell you to follow that old hen and see where she laid her eggs.
- ... In summer, all the kids had to work in the garden in the evening, then sit on the front porch later and have a RC and a moon pie.
- ... You cooked beets in the old wash pot.
- ... For supper you had scalded lettuce, cornbread and milk.
- ... You put rags soaked in kerosene around your ankles when you were blackberry picking, to keep the red jagers off.
- ... On the mornings and evenings when you went to milk the old cow, the cats would line up and you would squirt milk in their mouths. 🐄

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