

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

*Carolina country if...*

...you *pretended to drive*  
in an old, abandoned car  
*with your cousins* as passengers.

From Wendy Stebbins, Havelock

**From Marshall McDowell, Weddington**

- ... You had a long bus ride early in the morning to the new consolidated high school.
- ... More than a few students missed your first day of school because they were pickin' cotton.
- ... After a summer of swimming your toenails were stained red from the clay pond bottom.

**From Wendy Stebbins, Havelock**

- ... You watched Arthur Smith, Dolly Parton and Porter Wagoner every Saturday night on black and white TV. There were only three channels to choose from.
- ... You mixed a pad of real butter with King Syrup in the middle of your breakfast plate to sop your biscuit.
- ... On a bicycle with a huge chicken wire basket, the grocery boy delivered to your back porch door.
- ... At age 8, you rode the city bus downtown by yourself for piano lessons every Saturday morning.
- ... At age 11, you woke up at 3:30 a.m. to take out a barn of cured tobacco, then ate breakfast and were back in the field working by 6.
- ... You skimmed cream off the milk jar and helped your mother make butter that you poured into molds shaped like flowers.
- ... Sitting around a huge, vinyl cloth-covered table, you and your relatives cracked crabs in potato-onion stew and talked up a storm until midnight.

**From Katie Russell, Rockingham**

- ... You wait all week to see the race on Sunday.
- ... Your husband loves beef tripe and Prairie Belt sausages.
- ... Your son's favorite thing to do in summer is play outside in the front yard with the water hose.

**From Sabrina Jackson, Marshville native**

- ... You were told to go outside and play with the tummerturds.
- ... You'd be sent to Kingdom Come if you got into trouble.
- ... You'd go to the Horse Pillow if you got sick.
- ... When giving advice, your grandma was "just tryin' to hopes ya."
- ... You were using "fine language" if you said "shoot" or "dang."
- ... Giving directions you would just "take that roeward up yonder and foller it straight on out."
- ... You had a country store account for gas and groceries.
- ... You wore knee-highs with your Sunday dress and it had a split in it.
- ... Your momma told the operator to intercept your phone call just to tell you to get off the phone.

**From Brad Jones, Crab Creek**

- ... In North Carolina it's called a "pond," but in Texas they know it's just a "stock tank." [For Elisha Ashworth, July 2008]
- ... You just go down yon hill to his place, and crops grow good in them bottom. [For Virginia Kinley, July 2008]

**From Grace M. Ensley, Indian Trail**

- ... You attached Mason jar rubbers around your shoes and skates to keep them on your feet, then you could sound like a motor running when you moved along.
- ... You played hard all day, came in after dark, dropped your shorts by the bedside, and put them back on the next morning to play hard again the next day.
- ... You walked from house to house asking for empty Coke bottles so you could get enough "deposit" at the grocery store to buy a hot dog and RC Cola for 25 cents at the local car-hop restaurant.
- ... You and your sister before leaving for school each morning carried to the pig pen a bucket of slop suspended from a stick. You would swing it around and around the stick so fast that centrifugal force kept the slop in the bucket.

**From Keith Honeycutt, Concord**

- ... Your dog looked at the TV show "Rin Tin Tin" through the front porch screen door.
- ... You sat on the front porch and counted train cars going by.
- ... Your grandma told you to take your grandpa a jar of ice water so you could ride on the tractor with him.
- ... Your dad bought an old truck so your brother, sister and you could ride in it to meet the school bus.
- ... You put rocks in the creek to make a deep swimming hole so the snakes had somewhere to swim.

**From Sheila Johnston, formerly of Wilkes County**

- ... You grew up three dirt roads from the nearest highway, but now there's only one.

**From Rita McCormick, Fayetteville**

- ... Your grandmother boiled green pine straw for you to drink for your bad cold. You called it "pine top tea" and added sugar.
- ... After you picked blackberries or blueberries, your mother washed and cooked them for supper with homemade biscuits and country ham. Your lips and tongue turned blue.
- ... Your grandmother and great-grandmother would give money to newborn babies to keep the mice away from them.
- ... Your great-grandmother would rub her legs with green alcohol, a.k.a. wintergreen alcohol.
- ... You and your brother walked through the woods with a gunny sack to fill with pine cones for the wood stove. 📍

If you know any that we haven't published, send them to:

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