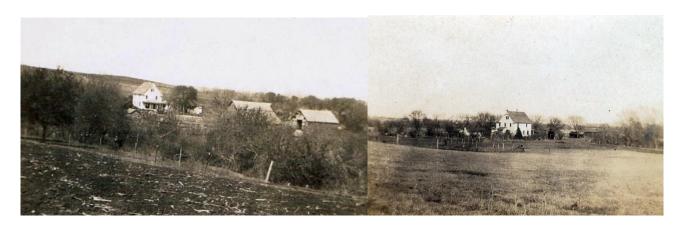
If you paid even a little bit of attention in your history classes in school, you will remember that, in the 1930s, there was a depression in our country and people were in dire straits, no work, no money, no food, no warm shelter. The one thing that people in rural areas had going for them was the ability to raise enough food for their families and, unless they lost their farm, a warm place to sleep.

My mom (Anna Pieper Saaijenga) was born January 22, 1910, and raised on a small farm about 15 miles northwest of Lincoln, Nebraska.



All this sounds hunky-dory at first glance but, besides the depression, east central Nebraska was smacked with a major drought, dust storms, and a plague of grasshoppers. Mom wrote several pages of history. The first gives you a condensed story of their life:

The find rain we had war any 22 and then it came will wind haif and dust we grew no corn very little hay no garden except beets just a few lus. of vator but an average what crop no furit of any kind the applies that were onable threes you could cook all day threes you could cook all day corn! 1.25 what \$1.34 Outo. 65 we are fuding syrap to the hops.

Here is the "deciphered" version of the story above:

1936 real truth

The first rain we had was Aug. 22 and then it came with wind, hail and dust

We grew no corn, very little hay, no garden except beets, just a few bushels of oats, but an average wheat crop. No fruit of any kind. Apples that were on the trees, you could cook all day.

Corn \$1.25 per bushel. Wheat \$1.34 per bushel. Oats \$.65 per bushel. We are feeding syrup to the hogs.

She wrote a 2-page story, also, and I will first print the entire pages, and then break up the pages so you can read them easier. At the end of this story is the full "deciphered" version of what these 2 pages below say.

in the 1936 which had deought it got dryer I dryer leve I live in the more of in from the West where it was a few years alead of more area one year we did not raise any potential but we were lucky as the lod been & rows of corn when the plantes lad plug up so we planted all kinds of squal & pumphons and that which We moved our garden and where the Welsh will wor at the end of the lone don't ask why grandput proper would get the wordhall so far from the year but it was in the posture at least We could water to garden and hope that the south wind Would not cook the Vigetable toper we had about 6 ineles of dust on our yard and when it looked like we sure would get roin, the drug world het the dut, and the duck would fly up, we would get about 100 a 20 of the roin diops there was no gases and corn grew short 3 feet tall but no ease we call to corn will the grain binder and shocked it like over or whist we lad show your & we lad show jules wel large ones and we feel that to the cour molesser and pour is over the straw a study mess and the flys love it, the strong piles were almost your so my dad and brother pouls some cotton or billow tree every atthes morning we girls would have to stand with large clube to keep the cours in the course or pen and when the cours head the vel fell mithing could stop them till they found the tree and the vel fell mithing could stop them till they found the tree and the vel fell meting, they did not gone much will on that found the leaves they sip in mill & butter and house house not much fled value in it but we braget the consument toll farmen to raine regum and mile which were chop weather crops that help to feel the stock we had well four we had clust atoms, so to heep the windows open we well four rack and that then over the open window 3 times a day one had

to take then down I ward the mud out, Suct would come in the house three every little crack like snow drefte. a lot of babie died as they would not cough the dust from their lungs, one of my rister almais time did of it she was 2's month all. then is started to soin a little more lad year and the grave & croper grew. then the grees beggins came they ste the point of I crope grew. then the gree rappers came they are no variety of building, the telephone wires took lake ropes and of course they ark cropes so we lad to get sawdered train and danama oil and soiren my from the fair ground 1022 to the first and and soil take morning before the run came my my dad, strathe and I would take racke of the genien and drive around the pills and sperial by fand if you to be ste by the grassloppers before they could get inthe fields, it did help.

We would go lead day to the very low hying land and get coin stolks for it cours to est and we always were the rame that it barnett field the sax the grandappers the so many holes in the clother at last there was not much left. the clother at last there was not much left to many holes in the clother at last there was not much left to for 3 to 4 years in the later years my dad and another man bought a store in malroln which dad thought later on when him a more moved off the farm they would have some thing to make a living. It movem hoppen as he passed away in 1941 in 19 the gamment get the idea that there were to be large lake in the county and that would draw more rain. one lade Gal was Branch lake took one farm and 13 others to judy a large lake in the Valley for the recreation, fishing booting eles the government bought cower when that the farmers would not feel in 1936 We had a lot of snow so much that we would retipo only they slot and burght the ones that were too for gone and the calmer to top of telephone poles, in took till Jebe 3 & before the snow place they slot and be switch to the south of the south Sould great up as word in our way

of the years of my schooling there were about 2 to capaj some white

that we never got to school we had 31/2 miles to school

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the creek that some past our yard on the south side, of outer banks

we so chery that you could put a 3 story long of the battom and

it would not total tick out gots taps and the water was about 1/4 H

wide. It was feel by springs

in the 1930 & rah, how desoight it got dryse & dryse leve & leve in the 1930 & rah, how down the west while it was a few years alead surous area one year we did not raise any potetain but we were lucky as their hod been & rows of corn when the planted had plug up so we planted all kinds of squark & pumphins and that what we ate all winter out shows the yeard mill was at the end of the land don't ask why grandfrag perfect would put the wordmall so far from the yard but it was in the posture at least we could water to garden and hope that the south wind would not cook the Vigetable tope would not cook the Vigetable tope would have it looked like we sure would get roin, the chap world het the dust and the duck would get roin, the chap world het the duit and the duck would fly up, we would get about 100 a so of

there was no goes and corn grew short 3 feet toll but no ears we call to corn with the grain binder and shocked it like over or what We had show piles real large comes and we fled that to the cour and board house house not much fred value in it but we brought makeser and pour it over the strow a study mere and the flex love is, the strow pile were almost your so my dad and brother sould saw down cotton or willow tree even alther morning. We girls would have to stank with large clube to keep the cows in the world or pen and when the cows heard the tree fall nothing could stop them till they found the tree and the other fall nothing could stop them till they found in that food at leaves there is, they did not give much mill on that food but be cows heep up in mill & butter

the government bought cower when that the farmers could not feel they slot and Busged the ones that were too for gone and the calmentary ships of to the south of the also et later en the waveness to the south of armers to raise sogum and mile which were the waveness told farmers to raise sogum and mile which were chy we evite crops that help to feed the stock we had

As you can well imagine, many people were desperate for food and crime reared its ugly head. Gramma Martha used to tell the story that it was so hot that they had their beds (in their downstairs bedroom) positioned so that the head end was as close as possible to a window. One morning they woke up to find most of their chickens had been stolen overnight. Common practice for thieves was to reach inside the open windows and put a cloth filled with some sort of "knock-out drops" over the faces of sleeping residents. The chickens could squawk all they wanted but the owners were not going to hear the commotion.

we had dust storms so to keep the windows open we well four sack and tack then over the open window 3 times a days over had to take then clower 4 ward the mud out, front would come in the house three every little crack like snow driftee. A lot of babie, clied as they could not wough the clust from their large, one of my mater almas times chied of it she was 2's month old.

LOSTROH, EILEEN-Funeral states the infant daughter of Mr. and Mr. Louis H. Lostroh will be held Monda M afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at the famil H. home at Malcolm, and at 2 o'clock a Ha the Malcolm Lutheran church, Rev. Al br fred Seager officiating. Interment a H. Lutheran cemetery a mile south of Mal se colm. The body is at Castle, Roper & B Matthews. in M LOSTROH-Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. (Aln m Piper), Malcolm; December 21, twant Oliai park. LOSTROH, EILEEN-Died at a local hospital Thursday night. She was months old and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Lostroh of Malcolm. She is survived by a twin sister, Arlene, another sister, Ardes June; her parents, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Pieper and Mrs. G. Lostroh, all of Malcolm. The body is at Castle, Roper & Matthews pending funeral arrangements.

then is started to roin a little more last year and the grass a come they are the point of building, the teloplone wires took like ropes and of course they arte cropes so we last to get saw duct brain and danama oil and soisen my from the fare ground in 25th a layer primary morning before the run come up my dad, Brother and I would take rack of the prison and drive around thopilds and spreak by land it was to be ate by the grasshoppen before they could get in the fields, it did help.

We would go lad day to the Very low lying land and get coin stalks for the cows to eat and we always wore the same that the bannet, fachel etc. as the grandapper ale so many holas in the clother at last there was not much left those were last times and we lad to make one dother do for 3 to 4 years in the later years my dad and another man bought a store in malrola which dad thought later on when him I mom moved off the farm they is over lane some thing to make a living. It never hoppen as he passed away in 1941

CARL PIEPER MALCOLM FARMER 1941 DIED FRIDAY

FARMED FOR MANY
YEARS NEAR MALCOLM

MALCOLM, Nebr.— Carl H. Pieper, 63, of Malcolm, died at a local hospital early Friday morning. He came to Lincoln from his native Germany at the age of four and had attended school here. Following their marriage in 1904, Mr. and Mrs. Pieper removed to a farm near Malcolm which has remained their home.

Surviving are his wife, Martha; four daughters, Mrs. L. H. Lostroh and Mrs. Reinold Plautz, Malcolm; Miss Anna, German Valley, Ill.; and Mrs. Fred Miller, Lincoln; one son, Arthur, Malcolm; father, August, and a brother, both of Garland; and seven grand-children.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday at 1:30 o'clock and at the St. Paul Lutheran church in Malcolm at 2 o'clock, with Rev. S. Holstein officiating. Burial in the Lutheran cemetery at Malcolm.

FATHER DIES

Folkert Saaijenga and Miss Anna Pieper left Thursday for Lincoln, Neb. The latter received a telephone message of the serious illness of her father, C. H. Pieper. They returned home Monday. Miss Pieper's father died before they arrived. Funeral services were held Saturday.

In 1936 We had a lot of snow so much that we would step over the snow place to top of telephone poles, it took till 3 etc. 28 defore the snow place continued of the years of my schooling there were about 2 weeks af some with that we never got to school we had 31/2 miles to school that we never got to school we had 31/2 miles to school that for the creek that ran past our yard on the south side, the outer banks the creek that you could put a 3 story louise of the battom and we so cheep that you could put a 3 story louise of the battom and we so cheep that you could put a 3 story louise of the battom and with world not tated stuck out of the tap and the water was about 1/2 ft with it was fee by springe



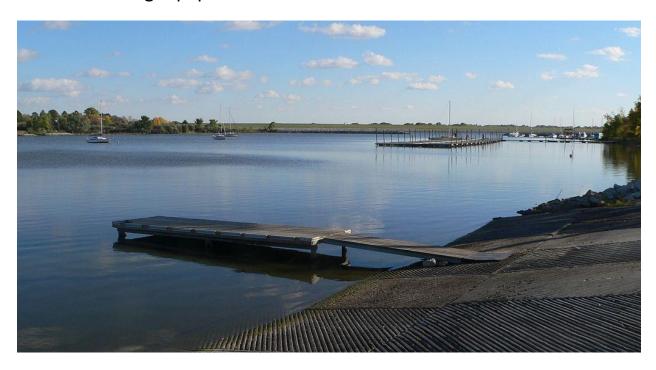
in 19 the government got the idea that there were to be large in 19 the county and that would draw more rain. one lake in the county and that would draw more rain. one lake in the county and one form and 13 others to make lake took one form and 13 others to make luxury lake in the Valley for the recreation, fishing booting the

The Branched Oak Lake was completed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1967. The park included 5,595 acres, of which 1,800 acres are under water. About 30 years ago I was told that the only thing left of my mom's old homeplace was one lone pine beside a parking lot. Everything else is gone and the big white house no longer is filled with the laughter and joy of the Pieper family.





On a positive note, it is estimated that one million people visit the area each year to "float their boats" and those pesky grasshoppers, last I heard, were in the market for snorkeling equipment.



In the 1930s Nebraska had drought. It got dryer and dryer, less and less rain. This moved in from the west where it was a few years ahead of us, our area. One year we did not raise any potatoes but we were lucky as there had been 2 rows of corn where the planter had plugged up so we planted all kinds of squash and pumpkins and that's what we ate all winter.

We moved our garden out where the windmill was at the end of the lane. Don't ask why Grandpa August Pieper would put the windmill so far from the yard but it was in the pasture at least. We could water the garden and hope that the south wind would not cook the vegetable tops.

We had about 6 inches of dust on our yard and when it looked like we sure would get rain, the drop would hit the dust and the dust would fly up. We would get about 100 or so of the rain drops.

There was no grass and corn grew about 3 feet tall but no ears. We cut the corn with the grain binder and shocked it like oats or wheat.

We had straw piles, real large ones left from other years, and we fed that to the cows and horses. Not much feed value in it but we bought molasses and poured it over the straw, a sticky mess and the flies loved it. The straw piles were almost gone so my dad and brother would saw down cottonwood or willow trees every other morning in the creek. We girls would have to stand with large clubs to keep the cows in the corral or pen and when the cows heard the tree fall, nothing could stop them till they found the tree and they ate the leaves. They did not give much milk on that feed but 6 cows kept us in milk and butter.

The government bought cows and calves that farmers could not feed. They shot and buried the ones that were too far gone and the calves they shipped to the south...Kentucky, Alabama, etc. Later on the government told farmers to raise sorghum and milo which were dry weather crops to feed the stock we had.

We had dust storms so to keep the windows open we wet flour sacks and tacked them over the open windows. 3 times a day we had to take them down and wash the mud out. Dust would come in the house thru every little crack like snow drifts. A lot of babies died as they could not cough the dust from their lungs. One of my sister Alma's twins died of it when she was 2 ½ months old.

Then it started to rain a little more each year and the grass and crops grew. Then the grasshoppers came. They ate the paint off of buildings. The telephone wires looked like ropes and of course they ate the crops so we had to get sawdust, bran and banana oil and poison mix from the fairgrounds for 25 cents a large bean sack and each morning before the sun came up my dad, brother and I would take sacks of the poison and drive around the fields and spread by hand. It was to be ate by the grasshoppers before they could get to the fields. It did help.

We would go each day to the very low lying land and get corn stalks for the cows to eat and we always wore hat, bonnet, jacket, etc. as the grasshoppers ate so many holes in the clothes, at last there was not much left. Those were hard times and we had to make our clothes do for 3 to 4 years.

In later years my dad and another man bought a store in Malcolm which Dad thought later on, when him and Mom moved off the farm, they would have something to make a living. It never happened as he passed away in 1941.

In the 1960s the government got the idea that there were to be large lakes in the county and that would draw more rain. One lake (Branched Oak Lake) took our farm and 13 others to make a large lake for recreation, boating, hunting, etc.

In 1936 we had a lot of snow, so much that we could step over the top of telephone poles. It took until Feb. 28 before the snow plow could open up the road to our way. Of the years of my schooling there were about 2 weeks of some winters that we never got to school. We had 3 ½ miles to school.

The creek that ran past our yard on the south side, the outer banks were so deep that you could put a 3 story house at the bottom and it would not stick out of the top and the water was about 1 1/2 feet wide. It was fed by springs.