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My life and the things I can remember.

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I was born August 19, 1929 in a double garage apartment in Perryton, Texas. My parents were Thomas Jefferson (Tommy) Manning and Alice Shirk Sweigart Manning. I was a little redhead. I had one sister, Mary Alice, and she was 15 months older than I was. When I was real young we lived on the east side of town. I remember one time my Dad was working on the roof and I started up the ladder because I really liked being with my daddy. He looked down and saw me getting on the ladder and he said honey, stay right there don't come up anymore I will be down to get you. Our house was pretty bad. Real small and no inside facilities. Our neighbors were Charley and Fannie Jackson and they had a pretty big house. Ruby Lee Malaney was their daughter but I think she lived some with her grandparents according to the Ochiltree History book. They had two sons, Mike and Pat. Mike was kinda mean we thought. He would sometimes throw rocks at us. They had some geese and one of them chased me and nipped me a little. Course I cried and was scared to death. Another thing I remember about my early days when we lived on the east side of town was this lady, Mrs. Rich, that got drunk and walked down the street. I can just see her face to this day. She wasn't much to look at and I guess she wouldn't have hurt a flea but I was scared of her simply because she had a stare look and never look like she took care of herself and she wobbled. Years ago alcohol was boot-legged, you couldn't go right out and buy it like you can today. My folks never had alcohol in our home. Mrs Rich's husband's name was Lesley I think and they had one daughter by the name of Maxine. My Dad was a small man about 5'5 and weighed around 126 lbs. He had been in the service and had double pneumonia. He had married once before he married my mother but got a divorce and never had any children. He was an orphan. His parents died when he was pretty young. He met some people from Snyder, Texas. Their name was Boyd. They remained friends for many years. He heard there was some work in the Panhandle so he came to try to find work. My mother's family came from Pennsylvania and had moved to old Ochiltree area. There was 12 children in the family so my mother learned to work and work hard she did. When she was grown she came to town and worked for Dr. Jarvis and his family. She was raised a Mennonite. She started attending other churches and left her Mennonite faith and that was where she met my father. They were attending a revival and met and fell in love. Work was hard to come by. My dad used to go to town and stand on the street corner hoping to get hired. I am sure his size didn't get him many offers. He worked for the WPA at one time. My folks really loved the Lord and would walk sometimes carrying us girls to come to church. They attended the Tabernacle clear across town from where we lived. It was the Apostolic Faith Church. It was located at what now is called 2 N. Fordham street just north of where I live at this time. I remember one time when we were having church Alvin Koehn came in the back door and he had mud splattered on him and he had been drinking. It was kind of a startling experience and sure nuff was for me because I didn't see much of anything like that as I wasn't around anyone that drank. Alvin's wife attended the church and I guess he was coming to

look for her. He may have gotten his car stuck because the roads weren't paved and that may have been the reason for the mud he had on him. Later Alvin was real embarrassed about that situation. He was a very nice man in general. One day when my dad was visiting with a man named Elmore, he told him he had a couple of little girls that would soon be starting to school and we had no car and we lived a mile from school. There was no buses that ran then except for the country kids. Mr. Elmore told him he had a house at 10 S. Eton and it was about 4 blocks from school and he would just trade houses with him straight across. MIRACLE for sure. This house only had three small rooms but it was so much better than we had. Running water in the sink but no bathroom. I have always regretted I didn't thank Mr. Elmore for his kindness. He and his wife lived in the house he traded to us until they died. We had a cesspool. My mother took in washing so we could get by. Don't know how in the world she did it. The kitchen was so small and that was where she had the washing machine. Our kitchen was so small there was no way we could have anyone come to stay with us or eat with us. One time one of my uncles came but I think one of us had to let him have our chair. Church was the main thing for us. We had an empty lot across from our house and sometimes there was a little bit of farm equipment on it. I remember when I was about 5 years old I felt like I needed to be saved and I knelt down by that piece of equipment and began to pour out my heart to the Lord. I just remember saying Lord Save Me. When I felt like he had such joy filled my heart. I don't think I will ever forget it. The joy of the Lord is my salvation. We have enjoyable things in this world but there is nothing like the joy of the Lord.

I went in and told my mother I just got saved and she said that's nice honey. I don't know what I was expecting but it was a little more than that.

We walked to school and I remember sometimes it was so cold I couldn't hardly stand it. We wore long socks but I still got cold. I remember my mother warming an old sad iron and putting it in a sock and putting it at my feet. When we first moved in the house at 10 S. Eton we had a coal and wood stove. We girls slept in the front room and we had an outside toilet. That was the way a lot of people lived in those days. Our neighbors were Arthur and Amy Daniel. They had 3 boys and one girl. Jr. Orrel, James (Blackie) and Annabelle. They were poor like we were. We played with them some and I remember they would build a fort the best they could and we would have rubber gun shoot outs. I wasn't very brave, I stayed hid most of the time. I really didn't want to get hit with one of those big rubber bands. I remember one time when I was walking to school I saw this cute little bottle in someone's yard and I really wanted it, after several days of temptation I finally took it. My conscience wouldn't let me keep it though I took it back and put it back. I was taught not to lie or steal. I remember one time riding my bicycle and I rode in someone's yard, now it wasn't a well kept yard but this lady came out and gave me a really bad look and said don't you ever ride in our yard again. I never liked that woman after that, I was scared of her. I have always thought if you make a friend of a child you will have a friend for life but if you make an enemy of a child they will be your enemy for life. When I was in the second grade we had moved for a short time to Roswell, NM. My Dad was a lay preacher but we didn't stay long. When I went to school, Mrs. Pate who was my teacher asked me what they called me? Anna

or Louise and when she said Louise I nodded so I was called Louise from that time on.

I felt like I was cursed because I had red hair and there was only one other girl in school who I knew that had red hair. Martha Barnes. People teased me about being carrot top etc; I was pretty shy but as I got older I kinda used that to my advantage because the guys would whistle and say Hi Red. I started to work at the Blue Bonnet Creamery when I was 13 years old. I worked at the fountain and they made a lot of malts there. My bosses were Mildred and Johnny Greer. Because I was not too strong and had to chop ice for the fountain drinks I decided to move over to the Walgreen Drug. Jinx Brashears was the owner. I had a special friend, Johnnie Mae Black and she was a pretty girl but knew how to manipulate you and the boys. We had quite a few boyfriends but casual ones. Johnnie Mae usually just used the guys but never got serious until she met Jake Jordan and she fell head over heels for him. The feeling wasn't mutual. He married someone else. She decided she would take my future husband Larry McLain on the rebound. They ran off to get married in his Dad's old pickup. He did have a signed permission from his folks. They had a flat and that stopped that, they decided maybe marriage wasn't for them after all. I had dated Larry some. The old pickup usually wouldn't start so when several of us girls went with him we had to push to get it started. Those were the days. I started dating Larry again more seriously and he ask me to lope down the lonesome trail with him and I immediately took this as a proposal. I was working at the Sanford Drug at this time. I had graduated from school in 1946. We went to Liberal, Kansas to get married. We got married January 7, 1947. He had to borrow the money from me to get the legal work done. We were married by the Justice of the Peace. Johnnie Mae Black and Everett Gipson went with us. I continued to work some at the drug store then later McLellans but after I got pregnant with our son I had to quit. Our son, Glenn LeRoy McLain was born November 30, 1948. He weighed 6 lb. and 11 ozs. I tried to nurse him and he wasn't getting satisfied so I had to put him on the bottle.

We went to the People's Chapel church on 9th & Colgate. Larry was baptized in Ansel George's horse tank. Years ago people were baptized in rivers or whatever they had, not like it is nowadays, nice baptistries. Our church was non denominational but we believed in the Pentecostal experience of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. It is my belief that ever one that repents of their sins are born again and the Holy Spirit is with them but I believe there is more. When Jesus went away back to his Father he said he would send us a Comforter, the Holy Spirit and He will be with you and be in you. Now before anyone might be thinking it is something spooky or far-out let me tell you the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a wonderful experience. I don't remember exactly when I received it but I knew when I did and we were anything but Holy Rollers as some people think. We were not a demonstrative church at all only believed in feeling the presence of God. I might add that the some of the churches today that have what they call Praise & Worship are much more demonstrative than we were. Nowadays they play rock type style music or anyway not like the worship we were used to. They wave their hands and clap their hands and move to the music. At the Peoples Chapel we didn't clap our hands when we sang and once in awhile someone would raise their hands but not like it is

today. We would have thought it was a form of fanaticism if we did like they do today. Times have changed. I don't necessarily think it is wrong but I just can't get into it myself. Larry drove the Sunday School bus and over 80 children attended that church for Sunday School and Children's church. I had worked out most of my life and when Glenn was a little boy I worked for awhile at the Blue Bonnet Creamery again and not being too strong, Valeta Phipps Ellis helped me a bunch. I then heard about an opening at the school cafeteria. I worked there for 18 1/2 years and served the dessert so I was a favorite with the kids. My hair was red so I had "Red" on my name tag. I was very popular with the kids and if I went to a public gathering at the school the kids would wave and holler hi Red and their moms would say don't call her Red and they would say that's her name. Some of those kids still call me Red today and some of the teachers. I had a fake catsup bottle with a red string in it and I would act like I was squirting it on the kids. They loved it. I also bought a rubber weiner and we would put it in the teacher's hot dog and really get a laugh out of that. I think Keith Flowers bit it into and that was the end of that. I rode the broom once during Halloween time and had a mop on my head and went down the aisles of the lunchroom making a noise like HEEE HHEEE or something like that. The kids clapped and so you can see why they liked me. Had some good fond memories. I quit working there and Larry thought I might like to run a beauty shop. His Aunt Wava had one in Okla. She wasn't a beautician just ran the shop. I went to beauty school but soon saw that wasn't my calling. Earl McGarraugh built us a little shop, and we called it the Doll House. I didn't stay with that long. When Larry and Levi Smith built our home in 1947 we only had one bedroom. Little Glenn had to sleep in the kitchen nook and I am sure it was pretty cold. We moved to Amarillo so Larry could work for his Dad but that didn't work out. We had a few family problems and we moved back to Perryton. We had rented our house to our brother in law's aunt.

We were making payments of a little over \$23 a month and we almost lost our house. Bless Earl McGarraugh he bailed us out and our payments went up . We then added on to our house and built another bedroom for Glenn. Later we had some siding put on and some brick work. It was looking pretty bad before we did this. Our house was stucco. I went to work for the Equity in the warehouse and worked for Olen Smith. Larry had worked in the Mill but was now a Field Representative. After Olen got mad and quit, they put Larry back in the Store so I had to quit. They didn't want us working together. I transferred to the Office and worked there until I applied for the court clerk/dispatcher's job. Kenneth Allen was pretty hard to get along with but I got along fine with him until he found out I was leaving and then he got a little tacky but we remained friends. I went to work at the Police Dpt. in January 1975 and worked there until my retirement in 1996. I was very well respected by my dispatchers as well as the officers. I also was in good standing with the Sheriff and his department. After my retirement we took a 20 day trip even though Larry really wasn't supposed to have the Pawn Shop closed that long. After he retired from the Equity he had a little store and was a bail bondsman and had a very small area. He had CD Russell build him a building for his Pawn and Bail Bond business. It was called McLain Enterprises and was located at 6th & Ash Street. It was in direct view of the Sheriff's Office. Our son went to West Texas

University for awhile and then moved to Waco Texas and worked at a TV station and went to Baylor University. He met his wife Susan Morris. They both worked at the same place. They had two children, Brian and Melissa. They moved to Des Moines Iowa so he could work at the TV station there. Tragically in Dec. 1997 our precious granddaughter, Melissa was killed in a traffic accident while going to school. That has been such a devastating time for all of us especially our son. They gave me a surprise retirement party at the City even though I told them not to. They made me a memory book which I cherish and of course I was pleased with the party but I cried of course. We have been lucky to get to go to the Bahamas with the Equity and Mexico City and Jamica. We took Glenn once and went to Acapulco. Glenn got really sick. They told you not to drink the water except at the hotel and he and Larry went in a place to get something to eat and Glenn drank some water. After my retirement I worked a little the first year after I retired but not much. I walked about 1 1/2 miles every day at the Expo Center until I had to quit. Larry and I have been involved with the Ochiltree Senior Citizens Center for over 17 years. Larry has served on the board several times and been the President of the Board at least 3 times and I helped in the kitchen and took the money for over 7 years. I finally had to quit due to my health. Legs not very strong. Larry and I attend the Community Worship Center, formerly the Full Gospel Church. We are so thankful for what God has allowed us to have but mostly that we have had each other. Have we had some bumps in the road, YES but I don't know of too many who haven't.

We have twin great grandsons, Ayden and Logan. They were born Oct. 26, 2005. We used to go to Las Vegas a lot, but we haven't for several years and we don't miss it. We have gone to Wendover, NV many times. As of this writing I will be 86 in August and Larry will be 85 June 4. So you see, Larry has to respect his elder for 10 months out of a year. Larry and I have had a lot of fun and we are best friends. Personally I love Larry more today than I did when I was young. Guess you have a deep appreciation for someone you are in love with as you get older. We both get and give a lot of hugs.

I never got to see my Dad's folks because as I said earlier his parents died when he was young. My mother's folks Jacob R. and Hannah Sweigart really worked hard. They had a lot of kids to take care of and the kids helped with the work as they got older. My mother said she only remembered being spanked by my grandfather about twice. She said when he whipped you, you didn't want to be whipped again as he doled out pretty severe punishment. She said he didn't want to spend his time punishing all those kids so you got the message pretty quick. My grandfather purchased some land south of town and I have no clue about his finances whatsoever but when he sold this land he sold the land with the minerals. Years ago minerals really didn't mean anything to folks so when he sold it I suppose he got a little more for it if he let the minerals go with the land. The lady whose husband had purchased the land told my mother one time your family would probably be pretty wealthy if your father had not sold us the minerals with the land. These people are pretty wealthy today but God knows what is best. After all money helps but it can never buy happiness or health. It would have been nice to have it but it

was not meant to be. The family that bought it are nice people. Their son was one of my classmates.

My grandfather did have a little more land and when he sold it he did retain a portion of the minerals. I have been lucky to receive a little income from the oil activity in this county. It isn't much but I am thankful for what I have gotten. I am sure I have left out something but oh well not everything needs to be told.

Louise McLain 6/3/15

