

Stories behind the Songs: "Hay Day In Heaven"

Verse: But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Cor. 2:9

My dad Jackie and Uncle Tony were old-time cowboys and farmers. They could work all day mending fences, breaking horses to ride, planting gardens or rounding up the cattle. After mom and dad got married they moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where dad worked as a professional concrete finisher. After 13 years in the big city, dad was ready to come back to the country to raise his five children in the wide open spaces.

I'll never forget after moving to the country, dad had a "Hay Day" with all the farming activities. We planted corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons. It was not just in a backyard garden but several acres of crops! In the summer we would set up a fruit stand by the road to sell our produce.

There was always something to do on the farm, but still dad would take the time to share with us The Word of God around the table, or in an object lesson in nature from the sights, sounds and smells of springtime. It was his favorite time when nature is in full swing. Listening to the cooing of a turtle dove, smelling the fragrance of new purple and yellow wild flowers in a field of green, or watching the busy bees buzzing around the clover to gather nectar to make their honey were just some of the wonders of God's creation that was so amazing to dad.

One of the highlights of his life each year was to ride his horse or wagon in the rodeo parade on Memorial Day in downtown Fort Smith, Arkansas, or to trail ride with his group: "Riders for Christ". He would always be singing a song and spreading the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I don't know exactly what he's doing right now but I think he's having a "Hay Day in Heaven"!