

Bits and pieces about the Alvin and Jane Spencer family

First: How many of you remember this story? Who laid his finger on the chopping block and told his brother to chop it off---and he did. Who got his finger chopped off and by whom?

1. John Ponder. His first name was John. Then why was he called Ponder instead of John? Because his Mother's name was Achsah Jane Ponder--she wanted him called Ponder. So he was called Ponder all of his life. However He never signed his name as Ponder. As time went on he held different positions on the different "boards, but signed his name as J. P. Spencer.

Eusebius. I've heard it said that his name was more like Eubesirus--however that's water under the bridge.

Elander Spencer Gibbs. She had a different first but I cannot remember what it was. Do any of you know what it was?

Get the Elizabeth-- Aunt Lizzie

Jemima Elizabeth---Aunt Lizzie. I was there when she was telling about she and the kids catching potato bugs. Ended up with one big pail full of the stinky things. She couldn't think of any thing worse to do with the smelly things than to throw them down the toilet---which she did. However the next morning the entire inside of the toilet was "wall papered" with potato bugs. How many of you have bugged potatoes?
burned toilet

Sylvania Adeline--Aunt Vannie. She was a tall woman and a very kind lady. She could always be called on to help when there was a sickness or a baby being born. I recall vividly when my baby brother was badly constipated. Mama did all she knew to do for him. She sent me for Aunt Vannie. Mama kept holding the baby but told me to go help Aunt Vannie. We went into the kitchen. The stove was still warm but she put a bit more wood in it. Then she asked me for a pan "about this big around". I gave it to her. Then she asked for sweet milk, which she poured into the pan. Next came a spoonful of vinegar. She began stirring. When it began to "curdle", she took it off of the stove and asked me for a syringe. I gave her that, and she filled it with the mixture. With that in handshe went to Mama and took the baby from her. Then she sat down and told me to put papers on the floor by her. She gave him an enema with that mixture. Did that work? You better believe it did! When she got older she she could not see well as it got dark. She would come to our house and visit with Mom and Dad. When she went home my sister and I would go with her, one on each side of her. She would talk with us, ask about school etc. and thank us for walking with her. In my memory

Alexander--Uncle Zander A very kind man. He would listen to any of us when we talked. He remembered which of my brothers was which, many mixed them up. When he was game warden, he came to our house one day. Nobody home but Mama and the little ones too young for school. They talked about this and that. He asked if any of our crew had gotten a deer. Mama said "No, not yet". Little brother Armond was standing there and spoke up saying "What about Todd's old doe?" Uncle Zander just smiled and went right on talking.

Uncle Columbus. I believe his name was Christopher Columbus. He was a very quiet man. My Mother told me that his Mother was a very quiet Lady. My mother liked her Mother-in-law!

Aunt Cindy. Lucinda Farebell was her name. She made the best dill pickles. Well, she was a good cook. Whenever a group of her neices and nephews would have a chicken fry at night Aunt Cindy would give us a couple of chickens to fry. We would have our chicken fry in the Brule River park at night. We hung gas lanterns in trees, and with a good fire burning had lots of light. It was always a good time. *THANK YOU AUNT CINDY*

Uncle Jake. I never knew him very well. He was a handsome man. At least I thought so.

Uncle Nim. He was a very likable man. He was kind and gentle. His wife, aunt Mamie had died. He and his children, Dorothy, Alvin and Vera were always at the reunion. He would bring, with Alvin's help a, ~~xxxxxxx~~ bunch of watermelons. Alvin would help him take them to the Brule River, where they stayed until Sunday afternoon. Then they would go get them and Uncle Nim would cut them up, for all to eat. The melons were nice and cold and oh so good.

My Dad was next. His name was Claudious Mae. He was known as Claud. HE liked to play jokes on us kids, but we knew to toe the line. When I came home from school with my first loose tooth, My mother was very used to hearing that from my brothers and sisters before me. She told me to go sit in a chair in the living room until Dad came home, then after supper he would pull the tooth. After supper I went to where Dad was sitting in a rocking chair on the porch. He stood me between his knees, and looked into my mouth, then said "Why that's a baby tooth, and you are a big girl, even in first grade." He quickly pulled the tooth, then picked me up and rocked me. The tobacco in his shirt pocket smelled so good. Then he began to sing. I felt so warm and special. The next thing I knew it was morning and I was in bed with my two sisters, Mescal and Jeston, and as usual I was way too warm. Do any of you have tooth stories to tell?

UNCle Pat. He was a very easy man to talk with. He too knew our names! Aunt Grace though was a "talker".

She was also a "helper", and a good one. She made beautiful clothes for her youngest daughter, Jessie. Jessie was a year ~~older~~ ^{younger} than my sister, Rosetta. so Rosetta got Jessie's very pretty hand-me-downs. It was depression time and nobody threw anything away. There was one thing she did that even she laughed about. It was winter and time to put up the snow fence. The town would have rolled up snow fence all ready to be put up on which plot of land. The posts would stay in the ground all the time. so the fence could be put up as soon as it was on the field. One year the fence was to go up and the town truck did it's duty and threw the snow fence near the fence posts. Aunt grace didn't see it. 2 days went by and the snow fence was not put up. Uncle Miles, who was on the town board, drove past, and saw the snow still on the ground, so decided to put it up. He was working at it when Aunt Grace saw him through the window. That made her mad. She got into her winter coats etc. and out she went. She gave Uncle Miles a piece of her mind, ~~then began putting the snow fence back up, as fast as he could take it down, so he gave up and left. She put it all back up, and when the boys came home they put the snow fence up--and got paid for it.~~

FENCE

TAKING IT BACK
DOWN

Uncle Herb. He and family lived just up the hill from us, with just a wire fence between us. He had 8 children. His wife, Aunt Mittie died when the last child was born. He gave the baby to aunt Mittie's sister to raise for him. Edna, his oldest daughter quit school and stepped into her Mother's place and kept house, and helped raise the younger children at home. Her sister Nancy also quit school to help Edna. Oh yes, Uncle Herb was a Spencer.....His oldest son was named Clayton. His second son was named Thaddeus Canedius. He was called Thaddy, as a boy, and Thad when he was older.

Aunt Etta. She was named Etta Ora. She married Herman Buchanan. They had a good life and 2 children, Clyde and Marion. Aunt Etta was pregnant with Adelle when Uncle Herman died from the gas he inhaled during WW1. It was a hard life for Aunt Etta, though her brothers and sisters helped her as much as they could. With much hard work she became a teacher, and a very good one. She taught many of her nieces and nephews and never gave us any special attention.

Strawther Clayton. Uncle Straw worked with his brothers in logging. He had a team of oxen called Buck and ball. He drove the school bus. He married Ethel Knott and they had three children Thelma, Stanley and Katheryn. He decided to go back to school and graduated from the Elvoy High School. Then to college in Stevens Point, WI. He stayed with it, with his family behind him, and became a teacher. It was a hard road but the family came through.

Now any additions or corrections????