

# The weather, it was so bad...



*"In 1965, I believe my dad was on the county commission at that time. It was at harvest time. I was married, and we came down to help my mother. Jay drove the combine and helped him cut wheat so they'd get the wheat cut before it flooded. They knew the flood was coming. It was the big one where the dam broke out in Colorado. So Jay came to help my dad, and when they finished up my dad's farm, my dad went out to help my brother Marvin and we went on back home. That was the year that the water got into the house. My folks had about a foot of water in the house. Mother had a new carpet put down just ten days before this all happened."*

EMILY LANCASTER WHITE 1965

*"We had the bad ice storm. It took down a lot of telephone poles and lines and all. We got a bunch of farmers together, and they went through to help get the telephone system back in order for the Lewis Telephone Company. They got it fixed and back up....And then they had another bad storm. They were broke and didn't have enough to fix it back again. That is when Lewis Telephone changed and went to Golden Bell in 1959. It started up around Rush Center. All the little towns in that whole area had about the same problems as Lewis. They were able to get this government grant through the REA and start rebuilding all these systems."*

KEITH KING

March 22 -25, 1957



**Jane Schmitt (Craft) on tractor after Blizzard of '57**  
Alfons Schmitt Farm 1 3/4 mile north of Sts. Peter & Paul

*"The big blizzard hit, they called and they told Daddy that they needed to get the line gang together. We didn't see him for about 10 days, and when we did, he came home and got clean underwear and clean socks and put an extra pair of socks in his pocket. When he walked out that night, he told Mom, "Don't expect to hear from me until you see me." The people out in the country really suffered. There were a lot of people that got lost in the snow, and their cars plugged up and stalled. It drifted to where it covered the fence posts, it was so tall. People in the country didn't have electricity for months."*

MARY KALLAUS March 22-25 1957

*"This picture shows a one-way. It's about ten foot long. Believe it or not, it was sitting out there in the field, and that tornado picked it up. Now, what would it get a hold of? But it turned upside down."*

ROBERT KALLAUS

*"It turned upside down, and the handle that they used to adjust it stuck straight up."*

MARY KALLAUS



June 13, 1970 Tornado picked up the one-way

*"The drought was bad in '51, '52, '53 and '54. It would blow for days (To save the cows) the government gave out a bunch of potatoes. They brought them in down here someplace where the train came in. They parked this railroad car, and they'd get out to shovel them on. Can you imagine feeding cows the potatoes? .... I think if you hung on long enough, the government helped you. That's when these wheat programs and all of this "you can plant so much and they guarantee you" came about.... The government "I got out of high school, and it was dryer than dry. Everything was dying. I told Dad, "Man, I can find something better to do than this." "Oh," he said, "You don't want to go in the army. You don't want to do that." I said, "I'm willing to because my name's on that list." ....Anyway, I went down and signed up. I just took my chances."*



ROBERT KALLAUS