

## Meredith Reed - Essay "Peek into Your Past"

This photo is of my grandpa. I call him Big Dad. He is a very joyful person who makes you smile and laugh! You could sit down with him and never want to leave!

When my grandpa was young, he and his brother cut alfalfa with a team of horses and a mowing machine. Cottontail rabbits lived in the field and my grandpa says they were as soft as a feather and big as half a loaf of homemade bread. Once every row had been mowed except for the last one, he would creep up one side and his brother on the other side and they would catch any cottontail rabbits hiding! Then they would tuck them inside their shirts.

Later that night when their little cousins visited they would ask if they'd like to see a rabbit appear! The visiting cousins really wanted to see magic like this! My grandpa would request they collect things like: an egg, a cup of water, a snake skin and other crazy items. They would gather it in a bucket and have the little kids close their eyes and say, "*sala ka dula!*" At that moment the brothers would slip the rabbits out of their shirts and into the bucket. The kids would open their eyes, peer into the bucket, and see a cottontail rabbit! Magic!

I love this story because it lets me imagine my grandpa as a child like me, having fun and making a little mischief. It lets me imagine what life was like on a farm, before electronics, when kids came up with creative games and surprises for each other. It seems like a great time and place to be a kid. I really wish my Big Dad would someday surprise me with a rabbit in a bucket. Magic!

