



## THIEF IN THE NIGHT

In the early 1930's during the "Great Depression" it was not unusual for people, who would not otherwise have done so, to steal to feed their families. Any type of livestock, food, or anything that could be bartered for food was constantly at risk. In that time my Dad who was visiting Grandpa (John Tyler Ewing), left the house one bright moonlit night to answer the call of nature.

He noticed the silhouette of a man moving about in the barn, and rushed back into the house and told grandpa what he had seen. Grandpa reached in the top bureau drawer for his Colt 45 revolver and headed for the barn. As he stepped off the back porch he saw the outline of a man running north down the farm field road away from the barn and directly away from him. He fired two or three times at the silhouette of the man as it moved away at about 125 yards in the moonlight.

At early light the next morning Dad and Grandpa found blood, so at least one shot hit the man, but it was probably a non-critical wound. They tracked him the length of the farm and across the next farm to what is now Fiveforks-Trickum road, where they found truck tracks off the side of the road. They reasoned that someone was there in a truck waiting for the man to return with a farm animal. It was common to put a rope halter on an animal (horse, mule or cow), and lead them wherever you wanted them to go. It was likely that was what the unknown intruder intended to do.

It was the talk of the community for a while. Nothing was ever heard from the would-be thief.

By Thomas H. Ewing  
(Story told to me)  
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