



**Times Remembered**  
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toes nearly every day.

Spring meant potato planting time. Dad liked to plant potatoes on Good Friday and he always followed the moon signs. If the signs were in the bowels or bloom you should never plant potatoes. Because it was said if you did plant in the wrong signs you probably wouldn't even recouping your seed.

The previous year's potato harvest had been stored in the basement all winter and was cooked as needed. Now what was left was used for new planting. Dad used those some but he preferred to buy the better seed potatoes. You usually got a better stand with the newer seed potatoes.

The night before we were to plant all the bags of seed potatoes were brought on the back porch and everyone began to cut potatoes into several chunks. Each chunk contained two or three "eyes." The eyes are the places on the potatoes where new sprouts come forth.

After all the potatoes were cut and placed into washing tubs the potatoes were loaded on the tractor wagon and took to the field to be planted. Dad had disc the



ground and "laid off the rows" earlier to plant. The ground was still moist but not too wet, but just right, as Dad was wise and knew the right time to plow and plant.

Now the work began . . . buckets were filled with potatoes and everyone took off their shoes and socks and worked barefooted. The soft soil felt so good and I loved sifting the dirt through my toes. Everyone picked a row to drop the potatoes in; some were covering the potatoes with a hoe and others were dropping the potatoes. This procedure continued until all the wagon was emptied.

The work wasn't over after the planting; the potatoes had to be hoed and all weeds removed. As

usual, the potato bugs just loved feasting on our potato crop. The process of bugging the potatoes began. We plucked the bugs from the leaves and put them in metal pie plates or cans and fed them to the chickens. They loved them!

I worked many years on a farm; whether it was in a garden planting potatoes or housing tobacco. The work was rewarding. I was taught the value of hard work early, it was a part of my life. Sure, I complained sometimes when I didn't get to do the things other kids did, but that was life and I was a part of a family and everyone shared in the work and the blessings that came from hard work. I believe you appreciate things more when you work for them.

# Planting Potatoes

We had a fairly large family to feed, so my parents raised a huge garden with lots of vegetables. Potatoes was our main crop because most people served pota-

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