

Linda Ann Gardner Dahl

By Sienna Dahl

Linda Ann Gardner Dahl loved her parents. She believed that they were the neatest parents in the world. Her father's name was Leo Victor Gardner and her mother's name was Irene Hogan Gardner. Leo was a very hard working farmer and Irene was a great mother who helped around the farm doing all sorts of chores.

Linda thought everything was great until one day when she was around the age of two, a very frightening thing happened to her. She was riding a tricycle in the kitchen while her mother was cooking hot mush for breakfast. She started showing off on her tricycle and bumped into the stove and the boiling water fell off the stove, burning the whole right side of her body. She was wearing a flannel night gown, which held in the heat and made it even worse.

When she was at the hospital the doctors were amazed that she lived through all the pain that had happened to her. When she was healing, she had a nervous breakdown. Her mother had to soak her in Borax baths two times a day. This went on many months after. She had many nightmares about being trampled by horses or snakes slithering on and around her. She had talked to others that had the same problem as she did and their reactions were the same. The scar on her right arm had grown together, which made her right arm difficult to raise, so her father, Leo helped her exercise her arm. He tied a rope to a tree branch and would swing her back and forth stretching her arm. It stretched her scar and her skin tissue so that she could use her arm.

She still has some pretty bad scars on her shoulder and her forearm, but she is thankful that she can use her right arm. She was born right handed but due to the accident she had to learn to use her left hand. When her kids were little she could feed them with her right hand and eat with her left hand with ease.

Sometimes she feels self-conscious about her scars and is embarrassed when people ask her what happened to her, but she forgets the scars are even there.

She enjoys sewing, crocheting, knitting and cooking. She has made many quilts and enjoys making them for others. Linda has even made one as a "thank you" for a dentist!

My grandma helps me do many things. For example, when I would like to make cupcakes or something like that, she will help me. When I would like making a new blanket she will help me with that too! Everybody loves what she does and makes!

She also is a very helpful person. When my parents are out of town, they call her first. They know that she will do the best job to make us happy. A month ago when my other grandpa had passed away, we knew that she would take care of us when my parents were busy taking care of things.

I enjoy spending time with her and so do my siblings. I love my grandma and I don't know what I would do without her!