



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
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## Farming in the Valley: 2011 Oral History Project

The following are transcripts from three audio clips in the **Childhood Adventures/Animal Stories** section. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/historyculture/animal-stories.htm> to view the entire page.

### Riding Horses

*For Carol Haramis, of Heritage Farms, taking care of and exercising horses was never a chore.*

“We had a **huge** maple tree that was right outside our kitchen door. And I would climb up the maple tree, probably three-quarters of the way up, and from that spot, you could see the entire farm. And so if Mom needed to get a message to Dad, because of course there were no cell phones then, I’d climb up the tree, find out where Dad was, come back down, saddle up my horse, and I’d ride out to get him. You know, that was always kinda fun because that meant I got to use my horse, you know, at different times. And the fun thing about growing up on a farm was, I mean, it was a different era. You didn’t have to worry about your kids being out by themselves. We’d get up on a Saturday morning and pack our peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich and go hiking in the woods, or get on the horses and go wherever. And the rule was, you were home, washed, in your seat at six o’clock for dinner, and if you’d been out on the horses, you were back in time that the horses were groomed, and they were cooled down and they were fed before you were in your seat.”

### First Riding Horse

*Rena Fiedler, who grew up at Stanford House, talks about how she loved her small riding horse.*

“And I had all sorts of pets, of course, and Grandpa at one time got me a little riding horse, which was great. We just had great fun with that. Horse was named Ginger, and she was a small horse. I used an English saddle. We just rode all over, *everywhere*. It was wonderful!” ~*laughs*~

### Dog, Goats, and Pony

*Philip Urbank recounts how his dog and goat pulled a homemade cart before he got his first real pony.*

“And if you look my name up in the dictionary, it says 'a lover of horses.' So I kinda got started out early, and I got to likin’ to foolin’ with teams. So we had a cocker spaniel and a pointer dog, and with rags I made up a harness and I used them as a team. And then later on, Mrs. Durr gave me a small goat. And I took and got it so I could lead it. And I made a cart out of baby buggy wheels and an old crate and shafts. And I would lead it up way into the orchard and get in the



cart, and the goat would run home. And one evening I just about wiped out one of my dad's friends. And he says, "Phil, do you want a pony?" And I couldn't even speak. I never even thought about wantin' a pony."