

THE ROAD I GREW UP ON

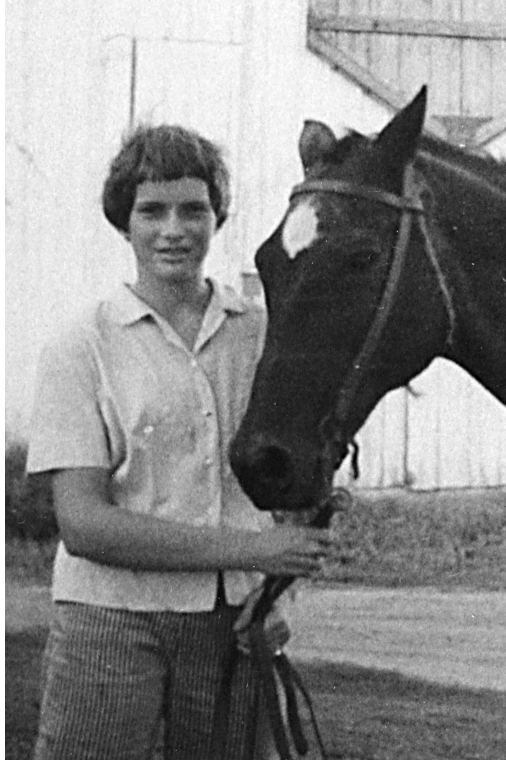
Requiem for a Vanishing Era

VOLUME 2



Helen DeElda Gunderson

THE ROAD I GREW UP ON



Helen Gunderson. Circa 1959. *The Helen Reigelsberger Woelfel collection.*

Being human is not so much “I think, therefore, I am,” as professed by the philosopher Descartes. The essential thing about being human, I believe, is that we tell stories. Could it not be said, “We tell stories, and therefore, we are.”

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Line art of Farmall tractor by Lonna Nachtigal, Ames, Iowa.



The Book

The Road I Grew Up On: Requiem for a Vanishing Era is a two-volume anthology self-published by Helen DeElda Gunderson, a fourth-generation, septuagenarian Iowan who grew up on a farm in Pocahontas County, Iowa, where she currently owns inherited farmland. After earning an undergraduate degree in physical education, a master's degree in instructional technology and a Master of Divinity, and following a diverse career that took her to other states, Helen lives in Ames, Iowa, on what she calls her urban farm. Her anthology, written from a liberal perspective, consists of regional and neighborhood history, personal memoir, spiritual insights, other opinions, and photographs. The seeds for the project were sown in fall 1989 followed by years of Helen's taking photographs, shooting video footage, recording interviews, conducting other research, and writing about the neighborhood and culture where she grew up. By 2004, she had formatted a large book, but it lacked a final chapter. She did not take up the challenge of writing for the book again until 2019. The first volume consists primarily of chapters from the 2004 book, while the second volume consists of chapters written in 2019 and an unexpected additional chapter completed on July 31, 2020, about living in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The preface essays for both volumes is located at the beginning of the first volume. All appendix material is located at the end of the second volume.

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