

Michael Franchville's young life in Southern Indiana. Childhood, hardships, school life, and home life.

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Writer: Elizabeth Avery Troutman
8th grade, Heritage Hills Middle School

I interviewed my Grandpa Franchville. His full name is Michael David Franchville. He is 83 and grew up in a small town called Bristow, Indiana, north of Tell City. He was born in the old Perry County Hospital in Tell City. He is the father of my mom, Joanie Franchville, as well as her brothers Jim and Joe Franchville. The interview focuses on many of the hardships he went through while growing up, and how, during that time period, everyone was mainly just trying to survive. He also talks about some of the fun things he did that are a lot different from today. He is a strong and resilient person who has a lot of stories to tell.

Q: What was that place you grew up in like when you were young?

A: We had no indoor plumbing or electricity. We had a battery radio. We heated with wood, and we had wood in the kitchen, because we had a wood stove in the kitchen where you cooked on. And had four burners. And the front had a door. So you opened the door, stuck your wood in there, and then, that's how you heated your food with a skittle on top of that. And it also had an oven in it. So that's how we cooked, and in the living room, then, there was a big old stove that was used coal in it, coal stove. So we used wood and coal.

Q: What were your parents' names?

A: Charles and Dorothy Franchville

Q: What kind of work did they do?

A: My mom was a housewife, and my dad worked at Maxon Construction in Tell City

Q: What were some stories you would hear your parents talking about?

A: I was only eight when my father died, so I don't have many of his stories, but I guess they did talk about the depression. It was the worst around 33 and 34. And how tough it was to get a job. My father's family consisted of about 10 or 11 kids. My mother was a wheeler, and hers consisted of about

10 or 11 kids. So they both came from big families and very little income. So I talked mostly about the hard times.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: I have seven. I was number three, but there were eight of us total. Actually, we have five brothers and sisters, and then we have three quarter brothers and sisters, because my mother married my father's brother after my father died.

Q: Did you have any family traditions?

A: Probably Christmas, we would go out and cut ourselves a cedar tree since they smell so good. We would decorate it with all kinds of stuff, but no lights since we didn't have electricity.

Q: What were your grandparents like?

A: Oh, Grandpa Franchville was a big old guy; he walked just about everywhere. And my grandma, well, she got dementia. She went and lived with her sister Mary Noel, and she lived there till she died. And Grandpa lived in the old house, without electricity or running water or anything. Oh, and He got in trouble one time. He caught him and three or four other guys making moonshine. They went before a judge, and some of the guys got fined, but Grandpa didn't, 'cause he didn't have any money, and had a whole family to take care of.

Q: What kind of food did you guys eat when you were younger?

A: A lot of corn bread. Molasses. A lot of potatoes. We always grew a lot of potatoes. And tomatoes, Mom canned a lot of tomatoes. Mom had a cellar that was insulated, where we kept all the canned food, and Mom always canned a lot of beans and all kinds of vegetables. We didn't eat a lot of meat. Well, we did grow chickens, so we had that once in a while. My stepfather cosmas would raise hogs so we would have some pork. Not much beef, just chicken, and lots of squirrels. Oh, we used to go squirrel hunting lots in the summer, but in the winter, we would have some wild rabbits.

Q: What was the earliest memory you have?

A: Well. Probably the saddest early memory was when my father died. There were five of us kids, and the four boys slept upstairs. And there were two bedrooms downstairs, and Faye was the only girl. They slept downstairs, Dad and Mom slept in the other. One night, Dad got up to go outside, 'cause we didn't have indoor plumbing. He went outside to go to the bathroom. And he fell dead right there. And Mom came up and got us, and we had to, the four of us boys had to lift him and carry him to the couch, but he was already dead. He was only 33 years old. Back then, you had the showing at your house instead of at the funeral home. And the funeral home had to bring out some batteries to hook up the lights in the house because we didn't have electricity. So I remember having some batteries and some lights there. We had kerosene lamps.

Q: Who was your best friend?

A: Wow, that's a tough one. Besides, my brother, Duke, it would have been my uncle Nelson. I had an uncle who was younger than I was. He was my age; in fact, we had the same birthdays. But he was a few months younger than I was. Nelson and I used to spend a lot of time together when we were kids.

Q: What was a perfect day like for you as a kid?

A: Oh, before I started getting in trouble? I guess when we would get our old bicycles out... Oh no, no. The perfect day was when we could go down over the hill, through the woods, and down to the bottom of the hill. There was a stream down there just deep enough to swim. But then there was a snake, and we never went back.

Q: What kind of music did you listen to?

A: Country music. Grand Ole Opry.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I started my first year at St. Paul in Tell City because my dad was driving back and forth to work. He would drop us off early before school was open, and then after school,

we would wait there for him to get off work. And then went to Bristow High School, over by Bristow grade school first. We had about 16 people in our class.

Q: What was your first job?

A: Well, my first job would have been when I was still in high school during the summers. There was a priest friend, Father Weidman, who was a pastor of our old parish. Every summer, I would go up to St. Nicholas, Indiana. St. Nicholas was the church. And I would go up there and stay there all summer and mow grass.

Q: What everyday thing is different now from when you were my age?

A: Well, I guess... most everybody back then was poor, and didn't take a bath very often. We had to take a bath in a wash tub. So that's probably what I remember. We were all young and poor, but most of us had the same problem: we were poor.

Q: Do you remember a major event that everyone around you was talking about?

A: The Kennedy assassination. How did you hear about that? Well, it was all over the radio and everything.

Q: Do you remember what people were saying about it?

A: Well, most people were shocked. And most people really liked John Kennedy. He was very popular. So they were shocked, and they were upset. And everybody was scared, too, but it was a scary situation

Q: When you were younger, did you have a dream of what you wanted to be?

A: I don't know. I had no idea. I never thought about it. Especially since when the Vietnam War flared up, we knew we would get drafted, so a bunch of us joined the National Guard.

Q: What advice would you give to your younger self and people now?

A: Learn how to earn your own way. Learn how to be independent. So you don't have to lean on anybody else. You can owe yourself, and know what you can do, what you're capable of.

New Food Near You

Quinn Boyd, Grade 4, Lincoln Trail

Are you looking for a new restaurant near you? Well if you are looking for one this is the perfect place to go to it is located in Santa Claus, IN. They have everything from arcade games to yummy and delicious foods and deserts. Also if you are looking for something to do while you're waiting for your food you could watch any of the tv's with movies to cartoons. After you get your food you could go get some ice cream for only one dollar a scoop. They also have some really good deals

that come with their drinks and food. If you are looking forward to staying at home that's fine you could just give them a call and it will get to your house in a time span of ten to fifteen minutes.

If you are looking for another place you could go to Acai Bowl located in Ferdinand, IN. It is a place where you can have anything from churros covered in chocolate to acai bowls with nutella on them. If you don't know what an acai bowl is, it is a bowl with fruit. They also have ice cream or frozen

yogurt in them. This place has a high rating and is cheap. This place is perfect for a hot summer day. This will be the perfect thing to cool you down.

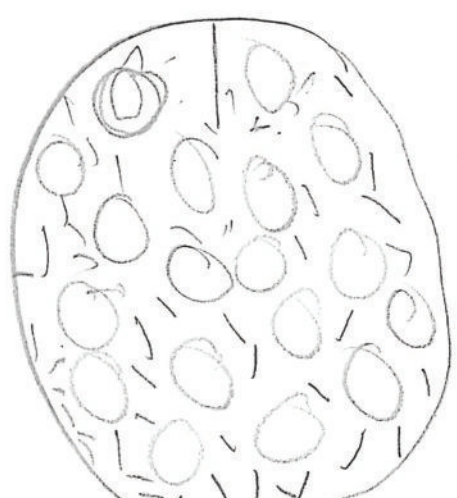
If you are looking for a fancy and fun place to go to on the weekend this will be the perfect place for you. It is a Mexican Restaurant located in Dale, IN and it is called Jimador Bar and Grill. It is the perfect place for a family night where you want to have fun and party with chips and queso. They have really good deals for their food and desserts. They also

have the foods that they serve have a good rating on them. They serve foods from chicken nuggets to street tacos, for drinks they have pop and Jarritos which is a mexican drink.

In conclusion all of these places near you are affordable and fun to go to with family and friends. All of these places also have good food and drinks so maybe you should try one out sometime. When you have no other place to go on the weekend and don't feel like cooking, maybe you can go to one of these places.

NAME: alyah
 GRADE: 4th SCHOOL: Davtunum

JENK'S
 PIZZA



The PIZZA is
 soo good come eat it

JENK'S PIZZA

586 S. Washington Street, Dale
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The Smallest Creature

**Clara Ballard
 Grade 4
 Lincoln Trail Elementary
 Ms. Fleetwood**

For thousands of years people believed that ants were the smallest creature in the world, but they are not. The smallest creature is actually a Myxobolus Shekel.

A Myxobolus Shekel is (0.0085 mm when fully grown) while ants are 1/32 to 3/4 inches, they are tiny, but a Myxobolus Shekel is much smaller, and there is not an exact number that has been

counted. Even though they're basically invisible, scientists found out there are only 10 left today because of bug poisoning that farmers use. These creatures are tiny white balls that do not fly. Though no one has seen one before, not one indian either, scientists have been confirming this for people 2 years in a row, throughout 2025 and 2026. That is how small they are. The craziest thing is nothing could find them, not one person found them at all

either and these things lived before the dinosaurs and today too! You'd make history if you found one in the grass of your yard. You could eat one if you didn't know that they weren't your mashed potatoes, but they are harmless, and they don't bite unless they have to, not a bird has messed with or seen them, including birds on the ground. So for thousands of years people believed in the wrong science words but ants are not the smallest creature in the world.

Aloha Paradise

**Gabriella Bickford
 Grade Four
 Ms. Fleetwood's Class**

Ukuleles, coconuts, a lei, beaches and relaxation, all things you can find in Hawai'i. Hawai'i has an abnormally large population of 1.43 million people! Did you know that Hawai'i is the only state in the United States of America that's made up of only islands; to be exact one hundred thirty seven!

Hawai'i is located in the South Western part of the United States. Hawai'i is about four thousand three hundred long miles away from Indiana. A flight there can take around twelve or more hours from Indianapolis. A ticket can cost four hundred and even up to six hundred dollars!

Top Hawaii activities include exploring volcanoes at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, snorkeling with manta rays in Kona, surfing on Oahu's North Shore, and visiting Pearl Harbor. Must-do experiences feature helicopter tours, visiting Kualoa Ranch,

watching humpback whales in December through April, and attending a Luau.

The state capital of Hawai'i is Honolulu. The state flower is a yellow hibiscus, and the state fish is a reef triggerfish. It became a state on August 21, 1959, and Hawai'i's abbreviation is HI. Hawai'i's US senators are both a part of the Democratic Party. They are Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono.

Hawai'i offers a rich tapestry of historical sites spanning ancient Polynesian culture, the Hawaiian monarchy, and World War II, most notably Pearl Harbor (USS Arizona), the royal Iolani Palace, and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park. Other top sites include Bishop Museum, Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, and the Byodo-In Temple.

All of these reasons show how Hawai'i is the place you want to go for vacation. It has historical sights, nature sights, and many more exciting and fun things to do. I hope you utilize this to plan your perfect Hawai'i trip!

Gymnastics

**Willow Scott
 4th Grade, Lincoln Trail
 Miss. Fleetwood**

Gymnastics is one of the hardest sports out there, very few people can do it. It takes years of training to get into the Olympics for gymnastics. But there is a world wide champion out there too Simone Biles is holding the world record of the best gymnast in March, 17, 2026.

Right now gymnast Simone Biles has 41 total medals. Her best event is vault. She started physically competing at the age of only 6 years old and is still doing gymnastics at the age of 29.

Also there are 2 types of gymnastics. Boy gymnastics and girl gymnastics.

Boy gymnasts do the pommel horse, still rings, floor exercise, vault, parallel bars, and horizontal bars. Girl gymnasts do the vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor exercise. But don't be fooled because boys have 6 events and girls only have 4 events.

They are both at the same level of difficulty. A triple-twisting double-tuck is the hardest move in boy gymnastics. Yurchenko double pike vault is the hardest girl gymnastics move.

In conclusion, gymnastics has a variety of skills and events. Gymnastics is an amazing sport that uses both strength and flexibility. If you do gymnastics you are likely to have flexibility and stay in shape for the rest of your life.