

Margery Post

Side 1:

[1] She was born in England in 1899. Her father was first to join family in this country and her mother later joined him with two little girls. Marjorie was 4 and her sister 2. Her mother had not traveled before and didn't know American money. After 7 days at sea she just opened her purse and told the clerk to take what was needed.

[17] Her father wore knickers when he first came and then became "Americanized."

[22] Her grandfather came over to marry his brother's widow, which was against the law in England at the time. He bought a hotel in Raleigh which he later sold and settled in Marion.

[26] Two sisters came over. One sister came here, married to Harry Batterham. Their three daughters taught at Asheville High School. [Eleanor A. Batterham, Harry Batterham]

[30] Her parents stayed in Asheville the rest of their lives.

[31] She describes the city as she first knew it. Few streets were paved. Mules pulling wagons with produce went to Pack Square. There was a fountain in the middle of the square with a popular band stand. There were concerts every Sunday night and one night during the week.

[45] When she was 6 she attended Orange Street School. The teachers were very strict. If a child spoke out of turn he would have a cloth tied around mouth and would have to stand in a corner. [Miss Moss, Miss Pratt, Miss Moody]

[51] Riverside Park was a great attraction and people would crowd on an open car to get there. There were the regular things for children to ride and a movie, which could be viewed from the bleachers or on a boat in the middle of the lake. This was the first days of movies.

[71] Her mother had 6 children after she came over. She lost a 4 year old girl with meningitis, a baby 2 weeks old and two daughters, one 20 and one 24.

[75] The family lived on Chestnut St. Her mother did not fry food or use corn but cooked English style, making her own bread. She had occasional help from a light-skinned black girl.

[83] She said her life was mundane - not exciting. The family had a traditional Christmas tree and the children received one or two good presents and were satisfied. They saved ornaments year after year and always tried to start Christmas at 4 a.m.

[97] She hated her job of cleaning lamp chimneys in soap and water every day. The chandelier in the living room was lowered by a rope and hard to manage.

[107] She remembers the Palais Royal on Biltmore Ave [1915 City Directory: Palais Royal, dry goods, 5-7 Biltmore Ave, Morris Meyers and R. G. Fortune] and a hot dog stand [1915 City Directory: David Gross, soft drinks, 16 W. College] run by a Mr. Gross. [David Gross]

[126] A performance of HMS Pinafore was put on by a Maurice (organist at the Manor Inn) at Grove Park Inn. Her father was a Lord, Susan Carter was Buttercup, Mildred Carter and many were also in it. The Carters [1915 City Directory: 32 N. French Broad Ave., Melvin E. (Susie R.), Florence, Mary, Mildred, Susie E.] were a prominent family on North French Broad Ave. [Susan Carter, Mildred Carter, Mary Carter]

[143] Montford was an important street. Mrs. Hewitt [1915 City Directory: Frank R. Hewitt (Frances M.) pres. Home B & L Assn, h 311 Montford Ave.] had an electric car - the first and only in the city. Her daughter Emily is 93 now and in Asheville Manor nursing home. She and Emily went to Oberammergau together in 1970 and stayed three weeks. [Frances M. (Mrs. Frank) Hewitt, Emily Hewitt Hayes]

[163] One of the Wiley girls married Westall who had a lumber yard. [Mary Wiley Westall, Jack Westall]

[165] She walked to school - there were no buses - from early June until after Labor Day. There were no "snow days" and the children went no matter what the weather. They simply dressed warmly.

[175] There was no Middle School. Her cousins taught in High School. She graduated in 1917.

[179] America took a long time getting into the war.

[She was very nervous and stopped here. I'm including this because there are some descriptions and she speaks of Riverside Park on Cragnolin tape].