

Wanda Stanard

Side 1:

[1/1] When she first visited Asheville in 1913 she was impressed with the number of trees. The city was more of a village, Charlotte Street ended before Grove Park and everyone seemed to know each other.

[1/23] She describes the Bon Marché and the elegant, wide porches of the Battery Park Hotel. [Lipinsky Brothers, Harvey Firestone, William Jennings Bryan]

[1/50] She visited her sister and brother-in-law who came to the city for their health. They picnicked on Sunset Mountain, motored around and played tennis.

[1/61] Residents on Charlotte St. and Merrimon Ave. went to Riverside Park on trolleys from Pack Square.

[1/86] Her sister was treated for TB and lived into her 80's. [Dr. Charles L. Minor]

[1/100] People coming to Asheville for vacations were not concerned about TB as patients were confined to big sanatoriums.

[1/112] She came back to Asheville in 1930 and wrote up horse show (see enclosure and Bingham interview). She went through the Biltmore House and describes the ice cream parlor. The restaurant has taken over the stables. [Alice Longworth Roosevelt, Jane Bingham]

[2/158] Haywood Street was as she remembered it but she couldn't believe her eyes when she saw Biltmore Village which, in the past, had no commercial buildings and the houses were well kept.

[1/237] Police officers directed traffic when she and her husband moved here in 1930.

[1/261] Her husband was advised to have a lung operation and went to Oteen. He began lecturing in the 40's on current affairs, first in his cottage living room and then, under the auspices of Mrs. Seely, in the new Battery Park Hotel. He also lectured at St. Genevieve School. [Hugh Stanard, Mrs. Fred Seely]

[1/305] She describes her husband's background. A graduate, in 1915, of the University of Virginia, he joined the diplomatic service and was sent to China to learn the language. He wanted to go to France during the war and volunteered with the British troops. In 1918 he took 3,000 Chinese coolies across the U.S. [?] into France to dig trenches. He later became First Lieutenant in the U.S. army and was sent to Manchuria. He became a reporter for the Roanoke, VA paper when he was discharged for health reasons. He graduated with honors from the Georgetown Law School and wrote for the National Geographic Magazine. When he was diagnosed as having TB he came to Asheville, was operated on in Arizona, and for 4 years he was the chief editorial writer for the Citizen Times. He died in 1961. [Hugh Stanard]

[1/430] Women from Biltmore Forest who had been working on "bundles for Britain" attended his lectures which were later held in the Stanard's present home.

[1/448] She was a reconstruction aide in the Walter Reed Hospital. She met her husband at a Knights of Columbus dance. They attended a movie in a snow storm - the theatre roof collapsed and she got back to the clinic in an ambulance. She visited Hugh in Roanoke and they were married.

Side 2:

[2/1] She signed up for service in 1918 to serve as a reconstruction aide while working as a playground supervisor. After joining the service she went to Washington. She was commissioned at a later date in the Reconstruction Army Service Corp.

[2/32] Washington D.C. became the "center of the world." She describes a reception at the White House. She lived in Washington from 1922-1930. [Prince of Wales, President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge]

[2/70] Previous to living in her present house the Stanards lived in Grovemont in Swannanoa and then a garage apartment in Montford.

[2/89] She worked as a secretary at Oteen during the crash. The bank at Oteen waited for all checks to come in and closed next day. She lost \$600.

[2/114] She describes Montford area. Many people living in Biltmore Forest previously lived in Montford. Charlotte Street used to be beautiful. Both Montford and Charlotte Street have deteriorated.

[2/130] The old VA hospital in Oteen was very primitive and casually run. Because of its bad reputation the administrators were told to "clean up the mess." It is now considered better than a private sanatorium. She did not see the old buildings but the row of houses on the side are now used as apartments. [President Harry Truman]

[2/161] By writing Washington she was given Army status even though she resigned before 1947. She is now eligible for non-service connected service at Oteen.

[2/207] When she fell and broke her hip she received help with "home-bound visitors." A dietitian and two doctors followed up on treatment. She is also assisted with hearing aids (see MacPherson tape). [Dr. James and Mrs. Tenney, Dr. Robert MacPherson]

[2/225] Her niece gave a party for her 100th birthday (see enclosure) for 150 people at the Asheville Country Club and a brunch the next day for 30 people. [Irene Gold]

[2/280] Re: St. Martha's Guild. She was made chairman of the St. Martha's Guild rummage sale from St. Mary's church. This was held 4 times a year to raise funds for the priest's discretionary fund. She decided to have a permanent shop and a vacant building on Valley Street was opened

every Saturday. She had read in the Reader's Digest that one should clean their closets every year. People flocked to the shop. Shoe store gave display, a table was given by Bon Marché and the Southern Railway electrified and hung lamps in front. All but 30 percent was given to the church, and this was given back to the Blacks. [Father Arthur W. Farnum, Eleanor Roosevelt]

[2/397] A recreation room was set up for Blacks who had no other place to go and just sit.

[2/400] She felt perfectly at home on Valley Street but would not today because of drugs. On traveling to the south from the north she felt the "weight of that atmosphere against the colored people."

[2/453] Everyone had bootleg liquor during prohibition.

[2/485] She was chairman of the Children's Welfare League for 2 years (1950); reviews its activities. It was founded in 1924 to aid children in orphanages and later expanded. The membership (40) is local and it is not affiliated with the Welfare League of America. She tells of a boy who was failing at Claxton [Elementary School]. The group helped him get into college and he later went to work in an Episcopal school (see enclosure). [Mr. Jarvis, Billy Woodbury]