

DIARY OF OUR TRIP TO KENTUCKY

1941

September 17, We left Woodruff, Arizona at 6:40 a.m. Our milage was
Wednesday 23,222 mi. We saw two airplanes being hauled on trucks.

We saw the Painted Desert and a A. F. of L. picketer.
Saw many long rows of Gov't Dynamite houses. Saw all kinds
of Indians going to the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque.
(one with a basket on her head). We entered New Mexico
at 7:45 a.m. Crossed the Rio Grande River and had tire
trouble near Albuquerque. (only trouble on whole trip.) Saw
many rolling hills or plains but the country didn't change
scenery much. Made our first camp about 44 miles this
side of Roswell N. M. at 6:40. Pitched tent, ate supper etc.
Had a grand time--really the camp life.

Sept. 18 We got up early, ate breakfast and started on the road about
Thurs. six o'clock. We rode ~~for~~ miles through rolling hills. (Never
dreamed their were so many hills just alike.) Went through
Roswell and finally got to Carlsbad. About 20 miles from
the city are the caverns. We registered at White City and
got our names in the Cavern News Paper. Went through Carls-
bad Caverns. It was 56° in the Caverns. The lighting was
was all indirect. Soon we came to Green Lake Room. The
Caverns was by far too wonderful for words to explain.
Just have to keep our beautiful memories. We went through
the King's Palace and Queen's Chamber which were simply
covered with stagment from both the top and bottom. We also
went through Giants Room, Fairy Land, Mirror Lake, Bottom-
less Pit & etc. We ate lunch in the lunch room 750 ft. under
ground. It is the worlds most unique lunch room and the larg-
est, (Ithink). Was fixed very nice. We bought some sou-
verniers. We walked further and then came to the Rock of
Ages which took a hundred years for it to grow one cubic
inch. It was extremly large and beautiful, the oldest stag-
ment in the caverns. There they turned all of the lights
our for 30 seconds and a male quaterd sang "Rock of Ages
Cleft for Me," while they were singing the lights gradually
came on, one by one until the whole room was illuminated, es-
pecially the Rock of Ages. This was very impressive. Mother
came back out of the caverns on the elivator and the rest of
us walked back with the guides--remember those 600 steps?
We drove a few miles out of Carlsbad City and camped. It
rained most of the night but we were well prepared for it.

Sept. 19 Didn't get started until 8 o'clock. We saw the first oil
Friday wells near Hobbs N. M. They were many big tanks with oil
being pumped into them. There was a very ill smell from the
oil--remember??? We entered Texas at 9:55 a.m. For many
miles we rode in great plaines and as far as we could see
in any direction was just land and more land. Saw many oil
wells, cotton, and cane fields. The land is much greener and
more thickly populated. Came through Big Springs, Sweetwater,

and Abilene (army camp) We found a very pretty camping place near Baird Tex. Large lake, grass and many trees (even prickly pears) Mosquitoes also.

- Sept. 20 Eastern Texas is very pretty and green. We went to Fort Worth
Sat. and saw a zoo and the Botanic Gardens. We stopped in Dallas and shopped a little after nearly scaring a street-cleaner to death.--remember??? Just a little trouble with the traffic. Rented a camp at Rock Court just this side of Sulphur Springs. Nice camp but rather hot.
- Sept. 21 Slept until nearly 10 a.m. and rested the rest of the day.
Sunday Washed out clothes, took showers and really cleaned up. Talked to a camp of Texans. They really had the Texan dialect and were proud of their state.
- Sept. 22 We got up at 4 a.m. and started on the road again. We stopped
Monday in Texarkana and took pictures on the Tex. and Arkansas line. In Arkansas we saw many poor, unpainted houses and barns but much pretty scenery. All along the sides of the roads are small swamps and the hills are simply covered with green grass--can't see any dirt only on the sides of the roads. Ate lunch near Prescott Ark. At Little Rock we went to the capital building. Saw the Millstone from which all the Ark. roads are marked. Rode for miles by the beautiful Arkansas River which had tall trees growing in it. Saw many rice fields and a large grove of weeping-Willow trees. Crossed many beautiful rivers and one with a tall draw bridge. Under it was an old raft with a cabin on the boat. So many things to make us think of the Old South. Negroes are picking cotton and we can see large plantation homes, negro shacks, and negroes everywhere. We crossed the Mississippi River at 6:45 p.m. A large steam boat was just pulling out as we crossed it. In Memphis Tennessee we saw many signs of the Old South--old lumber buildings simply black with smoke, negroes, old southern homes etc. etc. Saw a beautiful Neon flag waving over a hotel. We finally found a camping ground and Confodder (???) came over and talked. Very tired but it has been a grand day.
- Sept. 23 Left camp quite early. Rode for miles near cotton fields
Tuesday and cotton pickers etc. We crossed the Tennessee River on a ferry. We are crossing the Appalachian Mountains. We visited the capital buildings at Nashville Tennessee. In them we saw many Civil War relics. Jefferson Davis's and Lee's swords, clothes etc. Saw the Confederate flag (Stars and Bars) Etc. and much taxiderme work. The blue grass country started in Tennessee. We saw very large pastures or blue grass and lumber fences. Entered Kentucky at 5:45 p.m. We camped near Bowling Green in some peoples yard.
- Sept. 24 Kentucky is a beautiful country, many hills, trees, lakes and
Wednesday rivers. Nature has certainly done her part. We crossed the Cumberland River twice on ferrys. Soon got our of the Blue Grass country. Went through Bowling Green etc. Ate lunch

in a beautiful park on the bank of the Cumberland River-- just after crossing it on a ferry. We finally arrived in Cumberland after riding miles along the bank of the Cumberland River, and found Alexander Ison and his wife, who also lived on the banks of this beautiful river. We slept there--a real bed certainly feels good. They are very nice and hospitable.

Sept. 25 We got up quite early and lots of people came to see us
Thurs. and get their names on Mother's record. Isons, Isons, Isons, never dreamed that we had so many relatives. We went up-town and had our pictures taken. We went up a canyon and gathered pa pas. Made some beads from the seeds of them and Buckeyes. Crossed the Cumberland River on a swinging bridge. Slept in the tent.

Sept. 26 Chicken for breakfast. Ate dinner at Clelia and Arnolds.
Friday Went over to Lynch and saw the targets coal tiple in the world. Went to the show with the young folks.

Sept. 27 Folly was over most of the day. Ate the most beautiful,
Sat. good-tasting, large variety banquet at Nicks (Goldie cooked it). Saw Manuses and his wife's home. Shopped down town.

Sept. 28 The grand day of the REUNION. About fifty miles from Cum-
Sunday berland, over the most terrible mountain, we went to the reunion. Had a nice time.

Sept. 29 Told the folks in Cumberland goodby. Got into Virginia at
Monday eight A. M. Gate City, Virginia was the farthers EAST we were in the trip. (Martha, remember those huge ice-cream cones???) Followed the "Trail of The Lonesome Pine" for a long time in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Saw grand scenery. The mountains were covered with trees with bright autumn leaves. Lookes as though the mountains were on fire. Got to Aunt Mary's and Uncle Alberts (Sarah Lou's) in the evening.

Sept. 30 Visited the old places that Dad knew. Where house once
Tuesday stood where he was born. A tobacco barn is there now. Had our pictures taken at the old well. Sarah Lou, Jewell and us girls went up the hillside looking for their horse. Gathered a few nuts. Rode the horse. Went down to Kimberts and watched them make molasses. Spent the night at Aunt Minnie and Uncle Issace. Visited for a long time.

Oct. 1 Gathered Hazel nuts. Visited some more. Ellen came over
Wed. for a while. Told them all goodby and went back to Aunt Mary's. Went to the Young Folks Meeting. Young kids walked back.

Oct. 2 Fish and chicken for breakfast. Said goodby. Sarah Lou and
Thurs. Jewell rode with us to Sandy Hood to the fair. Rode for miles through the beautiful Ky. ~~Mounts~~ ^{Mounts}. Blue GRASS. Stopped at

Morehead and visited some more people. Crossed the Ohio River. Entered Ohio. Spent the night at Aunt Virgie Rucker Howerton. Her home has very many antique things.

- Oct. 3
Friday Gathered Hickory nuts. (5 gal.) Visited Gulktes. In Bethel we saw Pres. Uiles S. Grants Memorial and the house where he lived. Marilyn and Elizabeth read Aunt Virgie's Novel that she hasn't yet got published. Dad and them told their childhood experiences.--(church days preacher) She sang and he played the guitar. (bird)
- Oct. 4
Sat. Crossed the Ohio River at Cincinnati and watched the hills of Ky. again. We entered Indiana at 9 o'clock. In Indianapolis we had a lot of trouble. The car got bumped, and day got lost in the rain--or at least we could'nt find him. Finally got out of the city after waiting for about three hours. Crossed the Wabash River. In Terry Hutte we saw a clock nearly wot-hundred years old. Rented a cabin just a few miles from the city.
- Oct. 5
Sunday Slept very late and rested until nearly noon. In Illinois we saw the largest oil tanks we have seen. Camped about 4 P.M. Went to bed at dark.
- Oct. 6
Monday We crossed the Mississippi River again at St. Louis Missouri. There were many flat boats etc. on it. Passed the Old Court House and saw the block where negro slaves were sold in pre-war days. We went to the Forest Park and through the largest zoo in the United States. Saw ever animal and bird that any of us had ever heard of. Went through the Art Gallery and saw Maximellion's armor, etc. We drove a few miles out of the city and camped near Gray Summits. Some girls came out and we lay on the lawn and talked for a long time. It rained in the night.
- Oct. 7
Monday It quit raining about 4 A.M. so we got up and was on the road by five. Passed over the Ozark Mts. Bought some souver-nirs. Passes about five hundred army trucks, did they wave? Came into Kansas at 3:10 and entered Oklahoma after traveling only about sixteen miles in Kansas. Passing through the Dust Bowl we saw very many terrible houses. Camped upon a very pretty hill.
- Oct. 8
Tuesday Many rivers were flooding the land. We had to detour for about 50 miles because of the water. Passed a river where the water was clear up to the house-tops. Stopped in Tulsa a few minutes. Crosses the Arkansas River, North and South Canadian Rivers. Stopped in Oklahoma City while mother went into the capital and got some things. Crossed a bridge with 38 spans. We camped in the Panhandle in Texas. Mileage was 27130 miles.
- Oct. 9
Thurs. Up early. Drove for miles through grass and plains. Bought some souver-nirs at Amerilla Texas but it was so cold we hurried on. More plains. New Mexico and still plains.

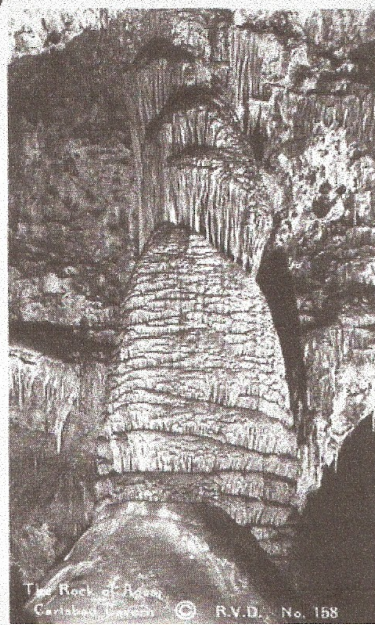
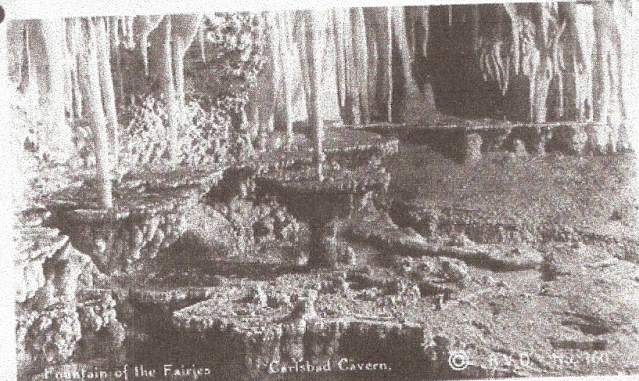
Stopped in Albuquerque to see the Harvey House. Began to get dark as we were leaving Gallup. Slept most of the rest of the way home. Surley seems good to see WOODRUFF again. After all they're no place like "Home Sweet Home."

Mileage:
home--23222Mi.
Cumberland--25499
home--27742 Mi.

Total miles of trip: 4521 Miles

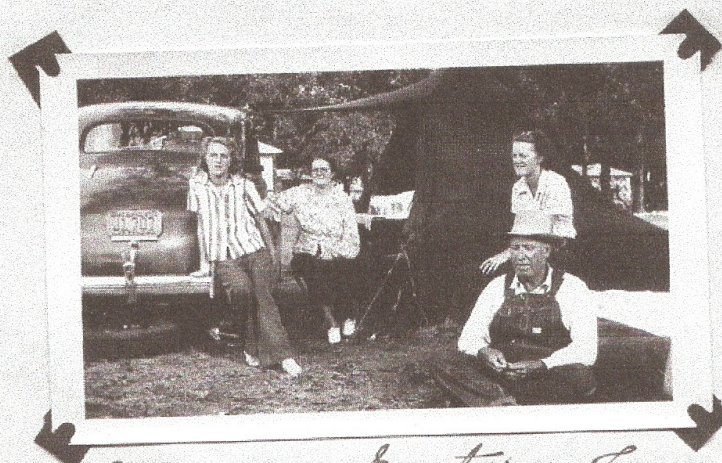
Total States 13-

- 1- Arizona
- 2- New Mexico
- 3- Texas
- 4- Arkansas
- 5- Tennessee
- 6- Kentucky
- 7- Virginia
- 8- Ohio
- 9- Indiana
- 10- Illinois
- 11- Missouri
- 12- Kansas
- 13- Oklahoma



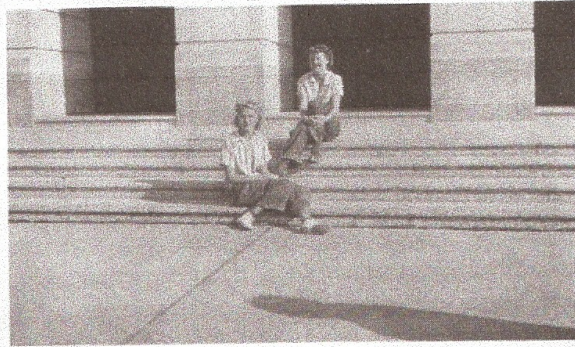


Marilyn & Elizabeth

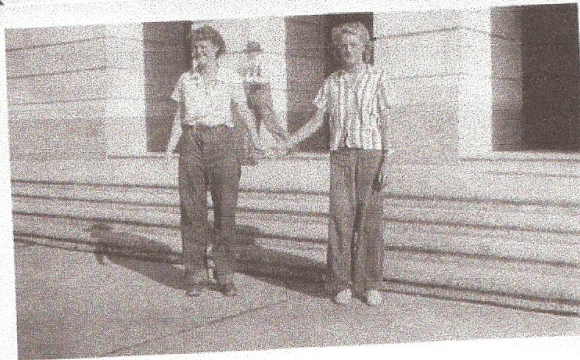


Camp in Eastern Texas

at the Post Office
in Texarkana



Marilyn in Texas, one foot
in Arkansas
Elizabeth in Arkansas
foot in Texas



Elizabeth in Texas
Marilyn in Arkansas



Camp in Memphis Tenn.
Just see Con-zodder's
dog.



Cotton field
in Tenn.
See the Sarkis
picking.



The Parthenon
in Nashville Tenn.
It is the exact image
of the ancient Greek
Parthenon
Martha & Marilyn
on the steps.

Marilyn
and
Elizabeth



Just leaving Virginia
and coming into Kentucky
In the Blue Ridge mountains.
On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine.



The Cumberland River in
Cumberland Kentucky
Marilyn in the tree
Elizabeth & Polly Leon



Arnold Leon
 Violet Leon
 and
 Geneva & Jimmie



Grandma & Grandpa
 Cornelia Hogg Leon
 and
 Alexander Leon



One of the first groups at the Leon
Pensions - held in Waverly Kentucky Sept. 28-1941

We Isons

Martha Ison
Sarah Lou Ison
Elizabeth Ison
Marilyn Ison
Jewel Ison



Country Lasses pure
and sweet



A horse & a calf.



The same Old Home Well-
with Kentucky & Arizona seen
around it, into the beautiful rolling
hills that Kentucky is famous for.



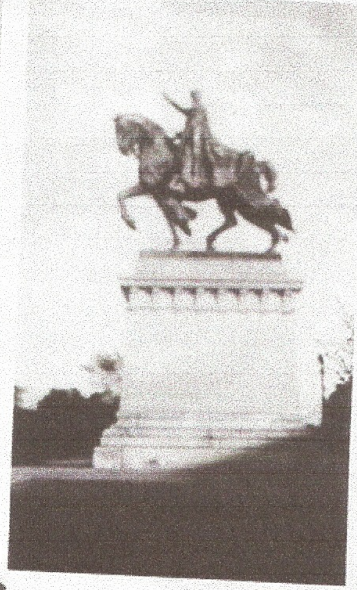
The Old Kentucky Barn
in Burke Kentucky
See the rows of tobacco leaves
drying in the top

Robert Lee Brown
standing where his old home
once stood, the house where
he was born - just 60 years ago.

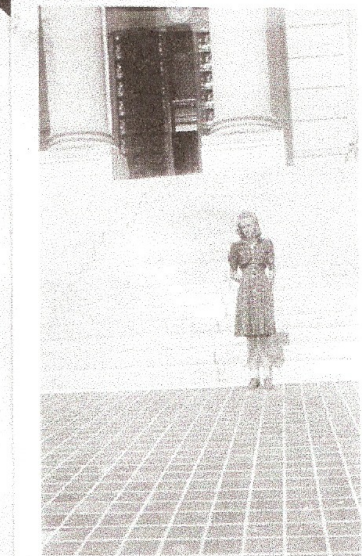
Taken Sept. 30 - 1941

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The Statue
of St. Louis
in the city
of St. Louis
Just in front
of the
Great Art
Gallery



Polar bear in zoo at
St. Louis, Missouri



Marilyn, on the steps
of the Oklahoma
Capital building in
Oklahoma City.

WHAT DO THESE REMIND YOU OF ???

Look at Mom., when the tent caught on fire from the midget "can" stove

Picture Marilyn hanging from a tree over the Cumberland River.

Dad, is that rain wet?

Buck'll wait, Martha.

Mart., why don't you let the cute little girl wave at the army trucks?

Bet, isn't your neck getting stiff. Here come the 210 army truck?

Sarah Lou, have sympathy for those trees--grapes can wait.

Elizabeth, you're not buried for good it's just a feather bed.

Good thing you came, Dad, we're just about out of paper sacks.

Say Mon, look on that Touraid and see if there is One city that isn't a state capital.

Mother went clear to Ky. to roll her own then she persuaded Dave Barker to do it.

Say Dad, a snap-shot is all we want of the Darky cotton-pickers--not they're address.

Papa of Waters=Mississippi River

Looks like we're going to have to camp right on the Miss. River.

Oh Say does the Neon flag still wave over Mimphis and the Old Man River.

Calm down in the bake seat--sounds like the monkeys in St.Louis.

So that's what a hippotomas looks like--Mart.

Mart seems happy for the nut-cracking to go on in the back seat--prevents Touraid study.

Sweet Sabbath Day-Beautiful day of rest.--Eastern Texas

Oh! see that plantation and river--Mean Dell, Mean Harold gain to live here.

Now Elizabeth, it's your turn to wash the four four spoons--Marilyn

Some object to back-seat driving but Marilyn don't like back-seat sleeping.

Now Marilyn, you're not the only one that's been back east.

All my shorthand is Look! Look! Look!

Martha, how come your feet are cleaner than the rest of us???

"I washed my feet in 13 different states - & that is something eh?"

"Where's Martha? When I read her letter I said, 'That's that man from R'zona, he's comin'."

Reminisance of Mormon Persecution in Missouri--Mother, "I guess that you'd get tired of being harassed." --Mart --Charlie Turley???

ORIGINAL POETRY

Grand to behold
Grand to behold
Grand to behold
Rains, bumps, bawling, "usually LOST!!! Where??? Indianaopolis
(Paper sacks and bottles???)

Aunt Virgie's singing

Don't mar a man if he drinks. tum, tum, tum= John's banjo

If the clouds would just split I'M READY. Thump!!!! (church fell from foundation props) Where's those suspenders that the preacher broke while he stampeded over the whole congregation in his haste to exit--John

Not safe to be tree-gazing in church--Splash! he knocked it from his eye.--John

Expressions

Took a little tip down Texas--Reunion

In fact, I'll be con-fodder in two mo months.--Memphis (from Chicago)

Shure-enough you all sure talk like Texans

That was when my old man drank a right smart.--Kentucky

Reckon we could get a heap a papas if we went thar. Up the holler and cross the branch.--Ky.

Yes, I was a Hogg but was relation to the Ison's--Ky.