



The Carrie Smith Letter

Johnson City, Tennessee • October 1950

Dear Mary,

I have to tell you about the most exciting thing that ever happened to me. My mother and I rode the train to Boone, North Carolina. Grandma says this is the "onliest" train she has ever seen. This was my first train ride, the first time I ever went to North Carolina, and the first time I ever spent the night away from home. Mother went to see a special doctor. You know how sick she has been this year.

We caught the train at Hampton, Tennessee, just before two o'clock. Uncle Frank took us to the depot in his wagon. I see the train moving through the valley near our house most every day, but it sure looked bigger up close. We got off at Montezuma for a few minutes. When we started up again, I sat next to a lady from Chicago. She was visiting Appalachian State College in Boone. She was very nice but she talked very different than we do.

We had to stop just over the mountain from Linville Gap because a logging train was on the track in front of us. I have to admit that I was scared when we started down the mountain. We finally arrived in Boone about 6:00 PM.

We stayed with Mr. Williams and his family right near the college. Daddy knew Mr. Williams because they were in the army together in the war. Mother got some medicine from the doctor and she felt better on the train ride home.

I can't wait to see you at the family reunion next month to tell you all about the trip. I would love to ride the train all the way across the country. It is the very best way to travel.

I hope I see you soon.

Love,

Carrie

October 17, 1950