

It was a Sunday in 1910. An automobile passed by. It was the first time the people had ever seen an automobile. I had already seen one because I had been to different places.

The peasants were smart people, they were intelligent people, but they weren't educated. They didn't know what to make of it. It was the time of Haley's Comet. Some said it must be a part of the comet. Someone said it must be something that brings the end of the world and someone said a devil sits in there and operates the machine.

I don't know how the peasants knew about Haley's Comet. The town where I lived had about fifteen blocks and I don't think amongst all of those people there were ten people that could read or write, but everybody knew that something was coming; they just didn't know what it was.

When they spoke in our town about the comet everyone thought, "Who knows what will happen?" But after I read about it a couple of times I knew that it just comes naturally. The comet comes every so often.

I had a book that described Haley's Comet. Somehow the peasants knew that I had it. So they came up to me and said, "Froika, we want the book that tells about the comet that will come and destroy the earth." So I told them it's not as bad as that. It won't destroy anything. I couldn't tell them that nature provides the comet. If I told them that, I'd have to explain all these things and I didn't know anything about them myself. So I told them it's God's

doing and that's all. He'll see that we're safe. What can you tell an illiterate person?

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I remember 1910 just like today. There was a bunch of Russian boys and girls visiting at our house. That evening we were sitting around the table and drinking tea and talking. One of the fellows said goodnight. He was going home. All of a sudden he comes back and he knocked at the window. He said, "Come on out, ladies and gentleman and you'll see something."

We went outside and looked around. Halley's comet was there. It was almost as big as the moon. The comet and its tail covered up almost the whole horizon. It made the night like a street now looks when the street lights on. Halley's was beautiful.

I still remember as I walked out of the house Halley's looked to me like the fiery tail was all on me. I wasn't scared, I was stupefied. I didn't think of God, I didn't think of angels, I didn't think of nature, I thought just of that thing. It looked like gold. The comet didn't have any certain quality. It just looked like something the imagination would make. It was a dream. It was like being in space. It was such an experience, I'll never forget it.

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Work is a different life, different persons. I got so that if I had to stay home a day I was lonesome. You get used to the people, not so much to the work, but to the people. When I came into the shop I felt like I came into my own house. Everybody was friendly, everybody was nice. The last shop that I worked at was big, three floors, but the workers knew each other because we used to go to meetings together, to picnics, to everything all the time. Then I knew some from different organizations that we belonged to.

The main thing for me to get used to was to getting up early in the morning. I had to get up at six in the morning. I could have gotten up at seven but I'd get up and shave, eat my breakfast. I used to eat in a restaurant. I don't like to swallow things. I sat down and talked to people. I never ate breakfast at home because I didn't want to bother people. Then I'd take a rest, and I had time enough to change clothing. At seven-thirty I was always in the shop, but I never went to work before eight. Not that I'm so strict, but the union wouldn't let me.

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There was a creek that you crossed on a ferry, a great wide platform. Somebody on the other side was pulling the rope. When me and my husband got married, we had a horse and buggy. We got on that ferry. I was scared to death because all along there wasn't nothing but water. I was watching the water. We came to the end and just stepped across.

We was going to a place called Indian Springs. This spring had a little shed over it and steps. You go down in the spring. They had dippers. You had to pay a dime for the dipper. They said that water was good for you. It smelled just like rotten eggs, but it tasted pretty good. Everytime you'd dip your dipper, you'd drink your dipper dry.

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My first husband, when he'd get through eating, he'd get a big wad of snuff and put it back in his jaw in the morning and he'd keep it there 'til lunch. I said, "Why do you keep the snuff and you never spit it out? Do you swallow it?" He said, "No." When he got ready to eat lunch, he just washed his mouth out and when he got through eating, he put some more in.

I started dipping snuff in 1917. I used to be crazy about having children. I was quick to get pregnant. You'd call that a breeding person. When you get pregnant, you want so many different things. Some people crave pickles and onions when they get pregnant, but I wanted snuff.

I put a little down on my lip and went right straight and spit it out. My husband said, "Sweetheart, what good do it do you to put snuff in your mouth? You don't do nothing but go right back and spit it out." I never did learn how to use it. I just put it in my mouth and spit it right out. From 1917 until 1976, nobody but me and my God know I use snuff.

That just shows that there's a way, a time and a place to do everything.

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I always did like pretty things. I used to go to the store. If I'd see something I wanted, I'd say to myself, "I believe I'll get that," if I had the money, now. If it took the last penny I had, I'd get it and I'd be just as satisfied and happy broke as I could be. There's some things you do want and that was me. I didn't worry. I bought it. Broke and satisfied.

I used to like to dress up. I used to be a terrible dresser. Pretty hats and pretty dresses. My husband would say, "Sweetheart, if you want that, get it."

I'm not like I used to be, of course. Some few things I want, if I need it, I get it. If I see something I like I get it.

Let money keep going around. You got to keep it going around.