

Betsy Lindeman's Diary of Her Family Vacation To Yellowstone

[About 1925-1926, at age 6 or 7, Betsy left Greensboro with her mother, Mae Elliott Lindeman, to visit relatives in the mid-west. Later on the trip they were joined by her father, Sidney O. Lindeman and brother, John Bruce (J.B.) to continue their westward journey to Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Betsy dictated her impressions of the trip to her father who wrote them down in pencil, on a bound, yellowing note pad. It is filled with the charming and innocent impressions of a young child.]



Mr. Reutach took us from Greensboro to Winston Salem where we caught the train to Roanoke and then we went to Columbus.

Our train didn't get in on time so we ate breakfast at a restaurant in the depot and we took a walk and went to the Capital Square and saw the squirrels and pigeons and I fed the squirrels.

Then we caught the train and went to Dayton where we saw the Ballet.

Sunday night Uncle Joe and Aunt Hannah and Grandpa went to the station with us and we went to St. Louis.

At St. Louis we went to the Chase Hotel and to the park across the street and took a long long ride and went to the museum where we saw pictures and statues and we went back to the Hotel.

Aunt Hannah O'Bannon came to see us and we went up to the roof of the hotel and had supper and got on a streetcar with Aunt Hannah and went to her house where we saw cousin Chelton and his two children and some other relatives and we had a fine time. We went back to the Hotel and slept and in the morning we caught the train and went to Sedalia to the Terry

Hotel an old timey hotel that was dirty. The bell boys did not wear the kind of suits they are supposed to.

We went out to the Country Club and had a nice time with Virginia Wade and Virginia Roberts. Her Daddy owns part of the Country Club.

Daddy came on Saturday and brought John Bruce with him and we ate at the Country Club that night and Mrs. McLaughlin took us to the hotel. The next day we took a long ride with Mr. and Mrs. Leach and had dinner and took the train for Kansas City to the Muehlbach Hotel which was a very nice hotel with lovely rooms. The coffee shop was very nice. We went to the grill room too and the Williams sisters danced while the band played and the music was lovely. We stayed there two days and Mr. Parsons took us on a long ride. We saw pretty houses and a big soldier's monument and the Presbyterian church and saw all the graves and heard the organ play and I asked Mr. Parsons what his Rabbi's name was but he didn't answer me. He just laughed.

They had a beautiful station in Kansas City and I got a balloon there. We caught the train and went (to) Eureka and Uncle Henry and Aunt Nannie met us there.

Mother and Aunt Nan talked for a long time and Uncle Henry and Dad and I called them to come on and get in the car.

We drove to Aunt Nannie's home and saw her new house. My Daddy walked and almost beat us there.

Uncle Henry and Mother and Dad and John Bruce and I went to Reece and I met cousin Alice and we had a lovely time and gathered the eggs every morning. One day we took a whole crate of eggs out and sold them to a man in store, and Alice and I got some candy and on our way back home we got Mary -another cousin- and took her to the farm. Mary went home that night and came back the next day with Paul and her dog named Whitey.

We shot off firecrackers that night. We went over to Uncle Shields house one night and Alice and I wanted to ride the horses and Alice had a big buck and almost fell off and had to hold onto the saddle and I was on a run-a-way horse and I was so scared I dropped the reins and held on to the saddle and John Bruce rescued me. Then we went to Eureka and Uncle Henry had a Buick and he didn't have any brake and the car went side-ways.

We caught the train for Wichita. We stopped at the Lassen Hotel-a good hotel. The elevator girls had on green uniforms.

Aunt Nannie went to Wichita with us. It was raining when we got there.

We saw cousin Anna and Cousin Cecil and they had a little boy called Avery. Avery and I every night got a drink of the best soda. But the best soda I had was at Mr. Clarks Drug Store in Eureka. I wanted to buy John Bruce a knife because he saved my life at Uncle Shields but he wouldn't let me.

Mr. and Mrs. Long took us in their big Cadillac car to Hutchinson, Kansas where we ate supper at the lunch counter at the station and caught the train for Denver. We met Mr. and

Mrs. Block from Richmond on the train. They got off the train at Colorado Springs and we got off and had breakfast and got back on again and went to Denver.

We saw pretty mountains all the way to Denver, with snow on them.

We stayed in Denver at the Brown Palace Hotel. There is a balcony to each floor and you could see all the balconies from the lobby.

I got a boyish bob in the beauty shop. We went to the movie in the afternoon and at night. The next day we went out to see the sights in a big car and took pictures and Dad took my picture and John's at a totem pole, and at the top of the pole a bear was devouring a little baby.

We went to the zoo and we saw seals making a funny fuss. One of them stood up and went to sleep. We saw two bears and one bear came out and stood in the water and held his mouth open and a lady threw a peanut in his mouth and he ate it. We saw Tigers and Mountain Lions, Wild Cats, Monkeys, some more Baby Bears, and a lot of other animals, and a Wolf that looked like a dog.

Next we saw a beautiful fountain.

There were a lot of beautiful homes in Denver and lots of little bungalows that looked like little Toy Houses.

We stood on top of a hill and saw Mount Evans which was very far away. It had snow on it and it looked exactly like a blanket.

Daddy bought me an Indian doll with a papoose and JB (John Bruce) bought me a pair of moccasins and on the tag, it said "*Moccasins for little feet, made by Injuns ain't they sweet. Good, if Dolly has a corn, Presto change-o it is gone.*" At supper time we caught the train for Cody and had supper on the train and we rode all night and all day and got to Cody at supper time the next day.

There was nothing at Cody but the hotel and a few little houses and across from the hotel there was a tepee and J.B. and I had our pictures taken by it.

The hotel looked like a log cabin on the inside and they had blankets and all sorts of Indian stuff hanging everywhere. I bought a little Indian doll for Frances and one for Bubba.

There was an old stagecoach there and I got in it and played. The next morning we got in a big yellow bus to Yellowstone. The bus was #342. The first thing we saw was Buffalo Bill's Monument. The base was made of great big rocks and on top was a statue of Buffalo Bill on his horse. Then we went into the mountains and kept going up and up and up and up until we came to a big dam on Shoshone River. We got out of the bus and went out on the dam, and Dad took our pictures. Then we got back in the bus and drove right through a tunnel in the mountain and we were real close to the edge of the mountain for long time.

The driver of the bus showed us a lot of things on the mountains. One rock looks like Henry Ford and then there was the Holy City and the Turtle and Four men sliding down the mountain on a sled and Dad and I saw a lot of funny things that did not have signs on them. I saw a goose, and a hen, and a bird.

After a while we got to the Lake Hotel at Yellowstone Lake. It as a nice hotel. I saw some Black Bears and John fed one of them and Dad took his picture. I went out in a Speed Boat with Dad and J.B. but Mother did not go.

Then the Prince and Princess of Sweden came to the hotel but they did not wear their crowns like I thought they would because they were called the Crown Prince and Crown Princess. I was not feeling well and one of my teeth hurt me and I had some fever so we stayed at the Lake Hotel from Saturday until Tuesday when I felt better.

We did not see the Grizzly Bears at the Lake.

One night they had a dance for the boys and girls that worked at the hotel and they gave prizes and we watched the dance and had a good time.

We all took a walk and gathered some flowers and one of the Rangers told Mother the names of all the flowers. The last night we were at the Lake I met a girl named Barbara Rose and she was so nice. Mother met Mrs. Rose and Barbara's grandmother Mrs. Patten and we all traveled together after that.

We went to the Canyon Hotel which was a beautiful hotel. The steps up from the lounge made it look like a throne and Barbara and I sat on one of the benches at the top and played King and Queen. We made Dad and JB kiss our hands.

Everyone went for a walk and when we got to the steps that went down the canyon Mother and I sat at the top and talked to a Ranger and the others went down the steps. It took a long time because there were nearly 500 steps.

We saw the big falls and the little ones.

We saw three Black Bears and one big Brown one and we saw the garbage man put the garbage on the dump and one of the Black Bears tried to climb in the automobile. Then the Big Brown Bear chased one of the Black Bears off the dump.

Dad took a lot of pictures. He said he would take a picture of the Dragon's Mouth and instead he took one of Barbara and J.B. who were standing near the Dragon's Mouth.

They had a fine orchestra at the Hotel and between the dances Barbara told me a lot of stories.

Then we went (to) Mammoth but John went with Barbara and her mother and grandmother up Mt. Washburn but Mother and Dad and I took a different bus that did not go up so high but we saw snow below us and above us and that was high enough.

We saw Tower Falls and the Grand Canyon and many high mountains of all different colors.

The hotel at Mammoth was not so nice.

Barbara and her folks left us at 6 o'clock and J.B. kissed Barbara goodbye.

We went up on the Terraces and we saw some mule-deer. Next morning we got up early and took the bus for Old Faithful. On the way we went through Silver Gate and Golden Gate and saw beautiful falls and a river where Dad said there were a lot of Salmon trout and I watched but did not see any jump.

We stopped at Norris Basin and other Basins and saw a lot of Geysers and funny pools.

Mother's glasses got covered with steam and she thought she was blind and she said "Where's my baby where's my baby. I can't see!" Then Mother took off her glasses and realized what had happened and we all laughed.

I did not like the smell of the sulphur.

We went by a camping party and waved to them and a girl was leaning down picking up something and she had her back to us but she saw us wave and she did not get up but put her hands down between her legs and waved to us and we all laughed because she looked so funny.

We got to Old Faithful which is a very nice hotel. We saw a lot of Geysers but the biggest one was Old Faithful which plays every hour and I saw it five or six times. It is very beautiful. Last night they turned the search light on it and it looked like a sun-set. I sat at the window pretty near an hour waiting for it.

Before that time I went up on the balcony of the hotel and listened to the music and I met a young man about as big as David [her oldest brother] and I asked him to play cards with me and we played slapjack and go-fishing. He was very nice. I didn't ask him what his name was. In the afternoon JB and I went swimming in the Geyser Pool. Today Mother had her breakfast in bed and Dad and JB and I took a ride to see Emerald Pool which was very green and Handkerchief Pool in which I put my handkerchiefs and they went way down in the Pool and came back to me.

We also saw the Daisy Geyser that "Geysered" for us.

John Bruce just read my diary to me and he says he did not kiss my hand when I was playing queen and he is right because he wouldn't do it.

After John Bruce read my diary to me we all took a walk to the top of Old Faithful and Dad took our pictures.

I got on a fallen tree that looked like a horse's head and had my picture taken there too. Then we walked all over the Geyser and across the river and I showed Mother a little baby Geyser coming out of the riverbank near the water and it looked as if it was spitting.

We saw some green moss in the river. It was fastened to the bank and a long piece of it would be moved by the water and looked exactly like a snake, curling up and then wiggling until it got straight and then curling up again.

I climbed up on top of an old stagecoach in front of the hotel. Then we had lunch and afterwards went to the curio store and bought a few presents.

John found a piece of petrified wood like we saw in the Museum at Mammoth. They had all sorts of birds and animals and flowers at the Museum too.

I asked Dad "Is this a petrified radiator?", but I was only fooling.

We are going to take the bus now and go to West Yellowstone.

Dad is writing my diary for me and I tell him what to write but sometimes he has to remind me about things we saw and sometimes he writes something down and asks me if that is right and nearly always it is.

I am homesick and I am glad we are going to get on the train tonight. I like the trains better than the buses.

We had a fast ride to West Yellowstone and had supper there. I ate a big supper. The place where we ate is very beautiful. Dad bought some cakes from our waitress. Her name was Alice. I am now on the train writing letters on telegraph blanks. I don't want to look at the mountains because I have seen so many.

Saturday we got to Salt Lake City. The Utah Hotel is very large and we had as many closets in our two rooms as we have in our whole house at home. There were 10 doors in the two rooms. We went to the Mormon Tabernacle at noon and heard a concert on the big organ. When the man on the platform spoke it sounded just like he was near us up in the balcony.

Dad told me not to talk so I used my fingers and made letters like deaf and dumb people do. We had lunch at the Hotel and I ate quite a lot. Dad said he did not know if I was eating more because I felt better or if I felt better because I was eating more. Mr. Malouf took us riding after we had supper in the roof garden. We went to Pantages and saw a good vaudeville show and a picture. It was nearly 12 o'clock when we got back to the hotel but I was so hungry and thirsty and I had a milk shake.

Sunday morning Mr. Malouf and his wife and little girl Dolores called and took us riding again. We went to Saltaire and fed the Sea Gulls and went to the Fern House and on the merry-go-round and had a real good time. Then we caught the train for Colorado Springs.

The scenery was beautiful and I stayed up until nine o'clock looking out of the big windows in the Observation Car.

All day Monday we rode on our way to Colorado Springs and I can't remember all the things I saw because there were so many beautiful sights.

We got to the Springs at supper time.

Went to the Antlers Hotel where we had fine big rooms and a good dinner and then we went to a picture show.

Tuesday we met Mrs. Livermore and her son Richard. They took us in their car to the Garden of the Gods and to Manitou and the Broadmoor Hotel. We stopped at a place called the Hidden Inn which is a store hidden in the Garden of the Gods. There were two Indians there and they put some feathers on me and we had our pictures taken. The Indians made bracelets out of Mexican Dollars. I said I would go up on top of one of the rocks when I looked at it from the hotel but when I got to it was as high as the Jefferson Standard Building so I didn't want to climb it.

At Manitou they had a spring of Soda Water but I did not like it. [There is a crossed out sentence which reads 'We saw Jack Dempsey at the Broadmoor'] We saw the beautiful lake there and it was so clear we could see all the fish. They have a swimming pool too. We could see the golf links and we went way up in the Tower and could see Colorado Springs and our hotel. We had a real good time here. Last night two Indian men and a little Indian boy danced for us. Then there were two Indian women and a little girl I thought was an Indian but she was Japanese.

Today it rained a lot and we did not go out riding but we went to a picture show and did some shopping. When we left Colorado Springs Mrs. Livermore gave me a box of Taffy and a box of candied fruit and she gave John Bruce a box of candied fruit too. She was very nice to us. We rode all night on the train and now it is nearly night again and we are still riding. Dad says we will be in Chicago Friday morning so that makes two nights and one day on the same train.

Daddy says when we get home he will have Miss Smith write my diary on the typewriter and make some copies so I can send one to Kansas to Alice and one to Grandpa and Aunt Hannah O'Bannon and Avery.

