



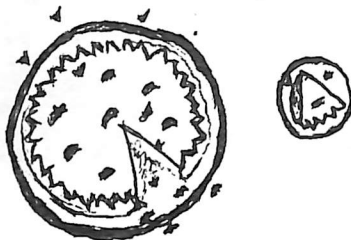
EDNA SMITH: "When a stranger would come there, everybody would come to see you — make you welcome to Lando."
(Photo by Charles Inabinet)

Edna Smith

I was 11 when I first went to work in a cotton mill in Laurinburg. My sister went to Lando and got us a job. Somebody told Mama about it after my daddy died. I went to work there when I was 15 — that was in 1908.

I worked at night. I'd go in at 6 o'clock and work 'til 6 o'clock the next morning. Made a dollar a night. The ones that worked on jobs that won't piece jobs, they got 40¢ a night — 12 hours a day.

When we moved to Lando we went to board with old Mrs. Funderburk 'til our things come. And she had an old colored woman cookin' for her and was one-eyed. Well, she'd cook blackberry pies and peach pies. They used to can peaches with the peelin' on 'em and she'd get them kind of peaches and cook peach pies. Well, I couldn't eat it. That old colored woman couldn't see good and you'd find a fly in every pie. Me and Josie, my sister, we were about to starve, and they'd say, "Why don't them youngins eat?". Mama'd go to the store and buy us somethin' to eat 'cause I couldn't eat it. I was used to what I eat bein' clean and that old colored woman couldn't see and the house was full of flies — it wasn't screened. And her mixin' 'em up in the cookin'. Lord-a-mercy! I can remember that. We had shipped our furniture and everything and they didn't have enough room for us all to stay on at Mrs. Funderburk's so Mama and them stayed there and me and Josie boarded at Mrs. Terry's. And we got along good there.



Clarence Mosley was boss man in the cloth room and he wouldn't allow you to eat nothin' in there 'cause he said it'd make rats. Me and Miss Leila Miller worked together — we got samples. We sneak out and go to the store. There was an ole wooden store stood right down there in front of the spinnin' room. We'd one of us slip out and the other one'd watch to keep the boss man from knowing we had went and go to the store and buy us candy and stuff. Well, we'd have to work on Saturday evenings gettin' samples, and it wouldn't be nobody but us and we'd work away awhile 'till we'd take a notion we wanted to eat. We'd hid our somethin' to eat and we'd take it out and put it on the table and sit down where we cut samples. We had it all spread out there — potted ham and all. We knowed they didn't allow us to eat, but the boss man won't there. We'd seed him goin' along the road towards the creek. But we heard somethin' a-comin' up the stair steps from down stairs, just a pattin' it up. And me and Miss Leila, we just grabbed that stuff and went to hidin' it. He stuck his head out and said, "Don't do it!" Says, "Leave it there." Says, "I'm hungry too." And it was Mr. Stafford; he wanted to eat with us. Well, he come on and set down and was eatin' with us. Well, here come Mr. Mosley right back by. Well, we just knowed he was gonna give us the dickens when he come Monday. Leila says, "Well, he'll get us!" Mr. Stafford said, "Well, if he says anythin' to you, tell him I eat with you and to leave you alone."

My husband was one of the first ones to get a car in Lando. When he got that car, we'd go to Chester to buy our groceries. And everybody around there would make out a list of their groceries. It was a old Anderson car and Ullis put side rails on both sides of the fenders and when we'd would come back from town, we'd have groceries lined up and down both sides of that car. The back seat was plum full. Then on the hood he had the seed for their cows and hogs and such things as that. It'd be loaded every which a'way he could load it. We'd get the groceries and if they had money they wanted to send to the bank, they'd give it to us and we'd go put it in the bank for 'em.

They'd go around of a night, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Baker, several more old men that would preach. Mr. Weaver couldn't read, but boy, he could tell you the scripture and he could preach it. They'd have prayer meetin' to people's houses. Well, one night the house was so full you couldn't get in. Him and some more men were standin' on the porch, holdin' to the post singin' "Let It Fall On Me". And the post fell and Ullis and Mr. Cooper fell out in the yard.

The Methodist Church, it had a high steeple to it and a bell. And they'd ring that bell every New Year's Day. They'd go there when it was goin' into New Year and at midnight they'd ring that bell.

There was an old colored woman, they called her old Aunt Emmaline. She stayed on the hill 'bout all the time. She had one young'in named Madge that was married. Emmaline claimed she could tell fortunes. But I never did believe in it, and I'd laugh 'bout her tellin' fortunes. Well, she'd wash for a lot of people on the hill and didn't charge you nothin' much for what she done. But she'd stay at night and they'd fix her

a bed down on the floor and let her sleep. She finally died.

Right by that old school house, there was a cemetery, and there was a lot of the older generation Ramseys buried there. Long as there was old people there to keep it up, they kept it up. But the school children'd tear the fence down around it. After I lived there, they even made a wagon road through there and broke all the tombstones down. Ullis had been to church one night and was comin' back through that old cemetery. And a grave had sunk real deep and he came along and fell in it. And it like to scared him to death.

People used to have chills. They'd have hard shaking chills and dumb chills and I'd never see'd a nobody with a chill and you'd get fever from the mosquitos in the creek and they'd cover up with a whole lot of cover and they'd shake till they'd shake that cover off of them. And they'd take chill tonic. That's the medicine they give them for it. It tickled me. I didn't know what to think of them. I'd never seen it before. I told them, "I wish I could have a chill so I could see how you feel." One Sunday evening me and Rose Carey went to the Chestnut tree that growed right down there close to the creek to get some chestnuts and there come up a hard rain and I got wringing wet and it was cool. Buddy, I had one of the hardest shaking chills I ever saw. I didn't want 'nary another one.

If one got down sick they'd all visit them. Somebody was all the time coming in to see how they were, bring medicine and doctor them and get them well. If they had any work needed doing, people'd just fly in and do it and now you don't see nobody do nothing like that. If one got sick and had to have somebody to set up with them they'd somebody come set up with them and let the family rest.

The worst sickness ever happened in Lando was the flu. Influenza they called it. That was after the World War. I took the flu on Saturday morning, I was home sweeping the yard and felt good and all of the sudden it hit me in the back and if I hadn't had a stick broom I'd fell. I like to a died from it and Reese Langley and Mrs. Liza Wallace took it the same day I did and before I got out of the bed with it they was both dead. Him and her both died and when I got up able to set up, my mother and my youngest sister and my brother took it, all three of them. Somebody come and told me they were in the bed and none of them able to get out with the flu and I started down there. I hadn't been out of the house. I was so weak I couldn't go. Well I got me a walking stick and went down there to see them. Well everybody told me not to go. People was scared of typhoid fever and the flu too. A good many people in Lando died from that influenza, but not as many as in Chester. I've seed them when snow was knee deep there going along with trucks piled way up high and caskets tied down and carrying them to cold storage. The snow was so deep they couldn't bury them, so they put them on cold storage. They would be whole families died. Maybe one baby left in some. That influenza would kill you.

Everybody worked and played together 'cause they wasn't no way much in or out of there less you walked. Sometime you could ride the "dummy". They had a passenger car they'd hook up to haul people in and out to Edgemoor. Nobody much had a car. Old man Crawford Hinson had a horse and

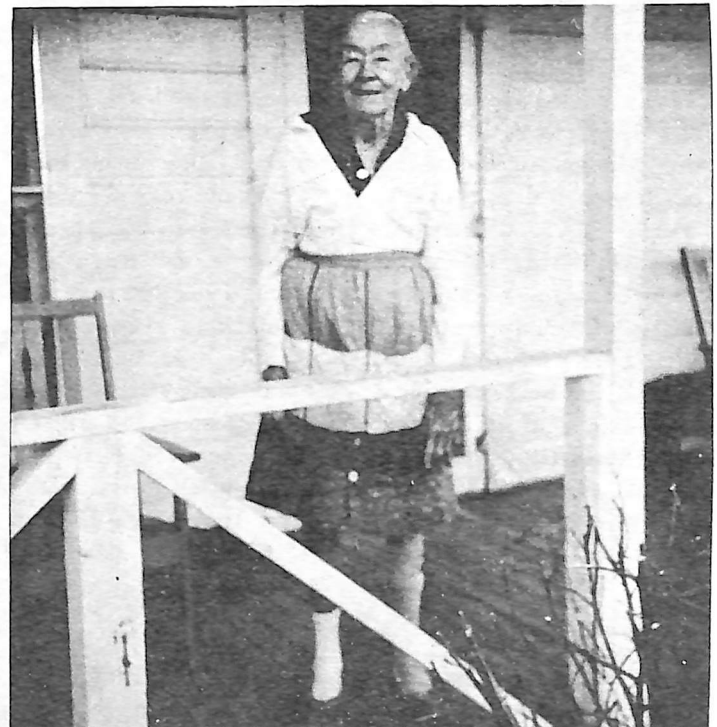
buggy and you had to pay him \$2.00, I think it was, to take you to Chester or Rock Hill and that's the only way people had of getting out of there.

After the Baptist Church was built Preacher Bennett lived in Charlotte and he'd come in on the "dummy" to Lando and he'd stay over till Monday and always make right to our house. He'd eat dinner with us when he come in. One day he was sitting out on the porch and I was just a little thing. And he was talking away and he eased his hand in his pocket and pulled out a little snuff box. Well, I'd never see'd a preacher dipping snuff and he put some snuff in his mouth. And I said, "Mr. Bennett do you dip snuff?" and he said, "Sometimes on a sly". And I thought that was the funniest thing but the funniest thing I remember was people saying "youins". When they'd go to go home they'd say "youins must all come to see us". I don't know how come they had that word.

They won't tin cans and things strewed all over the hill then like it is now. People used to keep that place clean, and they'd make the best gardens and keep all the weeds down around it. Up there at the bend of the creek where we used to live, that was where they went in swimming. The little boys'd go up there and they'd strip off starked naked and jump in. You couldn't go up the creek in the daytime without hollering and letting them know you was a-coming.

If you did you'd catch them naked. They'd be in there and that thing'd be full and you'd hear some of them cussin' and some cryin' and some hollerin'. I'd go look out the back door and I could see their heads sticking up in the creek. Now don't none of them go there much and it was cleaned and swept off and there was a big sandbar and they'd have the best time up there. We had good times back then.

When a stranger would come there, everybody would come to see you — make you welcome to Lando.



EDNA SMITH