

MEMPHIS A LONG TIME AGO

About 1911, in the summer the street car company had what was called the "Dixie Special." It looked like the Toonerville Trolley in the funny paper with an open trailer decorated with fancy colored lights.

One night it made the round trip to Normal and back in the cool of the evening. The next night it made a trip to Raleigh and back. The trip took two and one-half hours. One had to catch it on Front Street in front of the Post Office. I believe it cost twenty cents each. They gave free lemonade.

When the trip was to Raleigh, at the end of the line all of the crowd would go a few hundred feet to a place called "Swiss Cottage" for sandwiches and cokes and take them back on the car and would eat on the way back.

Joyce and I went once a week, but no one ever knew it because Papa said it was only for rough people, but it was innocent fun. Why, I would not even let Joyce hold my hand.

Mama knew we went. She would always wait for us on the front porch in the swing. She and Joyce had an understanding, in the beginning. When Joyce started coming to the house, Mama said, "You are the first boy Marie has ever gone with."

To which Joyce replied, "She is the first sweetheart I ever had. I will take care of her if you will let me come to see her."

Sixteen years old is a happy age, especially when one is in love.

