

Sad Times in My Life, But Now Happy

by Mary Porter

I was born in Medley, West Virginia on April 6th, 1932 way back in the mountains. The closest store was six miles away from where I lived.

I started going to school at the age of seven, eight miles away, one way. Before I went to school I would get up at 4:00 a.m. make a fire in the wood stove so my mom could cook breakfast. Then, I would go to the pasture bring the cows to the barn and milk them. After I milk the cows I would go to school. Sometimes the snow would be so deep I could hardly walk, but if I was late at all, even five minutes my teacher would make me stand in a corner with a big hat on my head that said DUNCE.

I had a real mean dad; he would beat me until I would bleed from my nose, mouth and ears. I had to stay home when it was seed planting time to help my dad. I never got to finish the first grade. Finally, my teacher put me in the second grade at the age of twelve. I never got out the second grade either. Finally, I got ashamed, I had no shoes and ran with little kids so I would skip school. I would go to the woods and look at the other kids playing, and just cry. When school was out I would go home like I had been to school. Finally, the teacher got in touch with my dad to find out why I was not in school. My sister told the truth on me, I got beat so bad I could hardly walk, but I loved my dad so much. At the age of thirteen my dad came to my bed for the wrong reasons, that's another story, I told my mom but she was afraid of my dad. So, she said nothing to him, but thank God nothing happened. I kicked him in his face, and he beat me and pretended he was beating me for something else I had done. I think that was the worst day of my life.

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When my dad went to plow that day, I ran away at the age of fourteen. I went to the woods I stayed there for three weeks. I ate berries, apples, and whatever I could find. I was afraid to go to anyone's house fear he might find me. I only went to school maybe total a year.

I got married at the age of fifteen and had a son. My husband died when my son was four years old. After ten years I married again, and I had two girls.

Thank God, I have no education, but I have had good jobs. I have taken many test and passed them all I have drove Coach Buses and School Buses. I had to take a hard test (C.D.L.) Commercial Drivers license I passed the test, I still have that license. I passed a Civil Service Test for the Post Office. I can spell almost anything; I say I was blessed by God.

There is much more I could say, but since you don't want a book, I will stop here. The happiest time of my life is now. All my children are blessed with homes and jobs. I have lovely grandchildren, great-grand children, great-great-grand children. I have lived in a mansion before too, so what I learned out of my life is I can survive anywhere.