

Brief Autobiography Prepared by Frances M. Roberts.

I was born June 21, 1926 in a rural setting in Henry County, Kentucky though most of my childhood was spent in the little towns of Wilmore and Nicholasville just south of Lexington, Kentucky, heart of the Bluegrass. My parents, James Harrison and Ethel Rice Roberts parted company when I was five years old and I, along with my three brothers were brought up by our mother during what is known as the "Great Depression." I knew money was tight and employment scarce, but it affected everyone. It made an impression I never outgrew.

After grade school, I spent four memorable and cherished years, graduating in 1944 from a boarding school for girls known at that time as the "Kentucky Female Orphan School." It is now known as Midway University at Midway, Kentucky. In spite of the former name with the tone of limitations, it had and still has a reputation for academic excellence. Those years were instrumental in preparing me with the conviction I was worthy, able to act on my own and capable of earning a good living. The school boasted no graduate of their school would have difficulty seeking employment. In my case it was true. Just prior to graduation a recruiter offered me a job with the Federal Government in Washington D.C., including prepaid expenses for the trip. I accepted. Shortly after I left home, my mother remarried becoming Mrs. Ethel Rice Broaddus. It was a short marriage, lasting just two years.

At seventeen, I was alone and quite lonely in a big city, far removed from familiar surroundings of small towns where I had lived and the protection of my school. There was no turning back. It was the example of my mother during those difficult years of raising her family that made it unacceptable to consider quitting. Ambition pushed me on to each opportunity. I went from clerk to

librarians' assistant and after four years transferred to the island of Guam in the South Pacific for four years, becoming a draftsman, then back to the States for four years as an engineering draftsman at the Presidio of San Francisco, then transferred to the Naval Station at Kodiak, Alaska spending twelve years as an engineering technician, finishing off my career by returning to the Presidio of San Francisco for sixteen years as a realty specialist. All in all I spent forty continuous years working for the Federal Government until my retirement in May 1984.

Surprisingly it was not the "hardships" such as poor housing, limited types of food, typhoons, cold water showers and shutdowns while showering or doing laundry, rats as big as cats, flying cockroaches, swarms of mosquitoes, dark days and lengthy rains, days of forty mile winds (wallywoos) , blizzards, volcanic eruptions with settling ash, a 9.2 earthquake and killer tidal waves, adapting from a small town to a big city, then to an isolated island, back to a big city or even quirky office politics; these were not what troubled me most. It was the loneliness that occurred with each relocation until I made that all important network of a few solid friends. With good friends you can endure almost anything.

All in all, life has been interesting, sometimes exciting, often rewarding. I have loved my turn in this beautiful world full of nature's wonders, being an American, being free, having God's love and protection like an angel at my elbow in time of need. Often that angel was a good person or persons. I am thankful for my mother, for her example and for bringing me up in a Christian home, for the good received from my family, grateful to my teachers, friends and even acquaintances for their help along the way. I have enjoyed good health most all my life. I don't know how I will leave this world but hope to be

remembered as I am now, fully cognizant and thankful for all the
benefits I have received.

I hope I have been more help than hindrance and reluctantly
say goodbye for now. (FARE THEE WELL.)

With love,

Frances M. Roberts

"FRAN"