

## Miriam Musette Johnson Petrunic Remembers:

Lessons and impressions lasting after all these years:

I learned the differences between a "setting" hen and a "laying" hen, after Grandmama asked several grandchildren (including myself) to collect eggs from the chicken coup. I never knew chickens could be so hostile! To this day, I prefer my chicken fried or baked!

Fond memory of Papa Johnson bouncing me on his knee, singing "Roo diddle diddle..." (The Arkansas Traveler) and interjecting questions to farmers as we took this imaginary horseback ride down a country road! So charming, I even used this in my later music classes. It never fails to delight and bring a laugh to my grandchildren today!

Of course, we did not have such things as Nintendo or X-box in those days, but we managed to entertain ourselves with simple things such as a rock game we played on the front steps of Carol Villa. First one to get the rock and reach the top step was the winner. So much fun, so little cost!

My musical influence was surely affected not only by the "Arkansas Traveler", but also by listening and observing my older cousins playing the piano. They seemed to be having so much fun playing duets on Grandmama's parlor piano. (I seem to recollect those cousins were Margie and Laurida.) I later pleaded and begged for my own piano and lessons!

My mother (Musette) recalls an embarrassing moment when at the time there was only one bathroom in Carol Villa. She walked in not realizing Papa Johnson was taking a bath. He put her fears to rest, saying "Come on in; the water's fine!"

Just a few of my memories! I look forward to reading others - - see you at the reunion! ☺