

Frankye Morgan Interview

January 10, 1986

This is Betty Turnell speaking for the Decatur Public Library. Our guest today is Frankye Morgan. We are recording on January 10, 1986, at the home of Miss Morgan at 1229 West Forest Street in Decatur, Illinois.

Q. Well, Frankye, (I know you want me to call you by your first name) - When did you come to Decatur?

A. In August of 1959.

Q. You've been here quite a while. Where did you live before that?

A. I lived in Chatanooga, Tennessee, but just prior to coming to Decatur, I lived in Madison, Illinois.

Q. Why don't we start where you were born?

A. I was born in Chatanooga, Tennessee.

Q. Can you tell us about your childhood? How you grew up and as much as you can remember about it?

A. Yes - but that was a long time ago! I was born May 25, 1916. I had an older sister 13 years older than I so my childhood you might say I was growing up alone because after she graduated from high school she went to live with my mother's sister and her husband. I was so used to her teaching me things that when she left to go to Chicago I cried so much that I got sick and my mother had to take me to the doctor. At that time I was 5 years old. My sister had taught me, and I could read before I went to school. So they decided it would be best for me to enter first grade. We didn't have kindergarten in those days.

Mother said the teacher told her, "Now I'm not a baby sitter so if she can't take care of her needs, she can't be accepted." Mother told her I would be all right and sure enough I was. I can remember that I was one of her helpers. I helped the others to read, because I could read when I entered at 5 years old.

Q. Did you live in town or the country?

A. I lived in Chatanooga. At that time my parents had moved into a home that had just been built. They were the first to occupy that home. When I came along, my mother said they called it "the country". Her in-laws, who lived in the city thought we had moved into "the sticks." They didn't have lights at first, but the house was made so they could have lights later. It was in a new addition for Negroes. I couldn't say I lived in a ghetto.

Q. What was your father's work?

A. He worked in the early years as what they called a "car cleaner." He cleaned the trains. Then as time went on, he was promoted to "car oiler" or "Journeyman." The common name for it was a car oiler. They jacked up the boxes on the cars - you probably have seen those strings on boxes. Sometimes the boxes would get hot. He started out making \$1.25 a day. I would listen to a man making 40¢ an hour and think that was terrible - which it probably was. My mother washed for white families.

Q. But both your parents seemed to encourage education. Did your sister go to school in Chicago?

A. She didn't have money to go to college, but she went to a beauty college called Burnhams at that time. When she was going there, she worked in my uncle's restaurant. They had a delicatessen. She made her way.

Q. Well, let's go back to you. After you were in the first grade, then can you tell us more?

A. My mother saw me coming home from school after the last day of classes in the first grade. Everyone was larger than I was, and an older child was carrying me, and I was crying as if my heart would break. Mother thought, "Oh, she didn't pass." When we got to the gate, Mother asked what was the matter? You didn't pass?" I said, "Yes, I passed, but I didn't want to leave Miss Minnie." That was the teacher. I loved the teacher, and I didn't want to leave the teacher.

The first grade was like a one-room schoolhouse. This building sat back from the main building. It was a strange sort of system. They had a high school. The second grade was in this building and the sixth through twelfth. Then when we got in the third grade through fifth we had to go to another section of town. My mother carried me to register me in the third grade. They had kids lined up along the wall. Then they called "Third grade. All in the third grade, line up by this wall."

The principal told me to go sit down.

Q. He thought you were too small?

A. Right. Mother said, "She's going right where she belongs."

But I was frightened. Anyway he questioned her, and she said, "Don't worry about it. She'll keep up." Later on, he found out that I could keep up, but he just thought I was too little.

I stayed at that school from the third through the 5th grade. At the 6th grade we came to Lincoln School. We really thought we were something! This time we were 6th graders, and when I was in the 7th grade I was accelerated. I recall that the 9th grade teacher had me to come up and show some of the older kids how to do some problems.

But when I got to the 9th grade, Oh boy! I had changed completely. I think at that time - you know how kids want to belong to groups and you want to follow the leader. We had a girl in the class who was a leader. She was a ring leader for anything that kept up disorder in the classroom, but nobody could catch her. She was disruptive, but kids look up to that sort of behavior. You want to be like them. You want to belong and having them counting you in on their little conversations. So they got me to do all sorts of things. I can recall one time I put a frog in the principal's desk drawer. Oh, we did some terrible things! I would always be the one who got caught, and then I'd pay for it.

Q. Did your studies suffer?

A. Not until I got to the 9th grade. Now, the 9th grade was at this same school. When I reached the 9th grade, they had changed the system again and it was called then "junior high school", and it went from grades 6 through 9. So the high

school was across town - on the south side - and you had to ride a street car to get there. As I said, when I got to the 9th grade I had a teacher who was very sweet. I was the kind of student who needed a strong teacher who made me toe the mark, but she was a new teacher, and we as a class just about drove her mad. That was a time when teachers had a home room and taught all the subjects - or most of them.

She found out what I was doing, and she would come by and talk to my parents. After she would leave, I would get it! But it still didn't change my behavior because I still wanted to appear one of the group. So my grades suffered during that period, but I passed to the 10th grade.

Then my sister came back to set up a beauty shop in town. In fact, she had the first beauty salon in Chatanooga.

She instilled in me the need to achieve, and I got back in line - so much so that I graduated with honors. At that time we had what they called "first honors group" and "second Honors group" so I graduated in the second honors group, which was a lot to do, having just about failed in the 9th grade.

Chatanooga was a large city, but we had segregated schools so the black school population wasn't that large. When I graduated from high school, there were 92 in my class.

Q. So it was an honor to graduate as you did!

Let's go back to your childhood. When you were a child, did you have certain duties or chores? Even though you were practically an only child, were you excused?

A. No way! My mother washed, and along with washing, she cooked for the school in the cafeteria after I started to go to school. Before I started to go to school, she washed full time at home. She used to call herself a "suds-buster." She had no machines. She used the wash board. She would boil the white clothes in a black pot. I used to hate Mondays. Monday was wash day. On Sunday one of the men of the family for whom she washed would bring the clothes in a big, long box, about 4' long.

When she finished and ironed the clothes, they would be laid in the box, and the dresses would be hung on coat hangers.

She washed for more than one family, but this particular family I recall. My grandmother had nursed triplets. There was a family that had a teen-aged boy and a teen-aged girl. Then they had triplets. When the triplets were born, the father was about to kill himself because he didn't know what he was going to do. He couldn't afford it. His dad promised that he would help with the children, and they got my grandmother to nurse for these babies. They were the first triplets born in Chatanooga, and my mother washed for them until the time all of them were wearing men's clothes.

Q. Were the triplets all boys?

A. Yes - three boys. She was washing their shirts, etc.

As I said, having chores, I learned how to iron and help with the washing by carrying the tubs.

My father worked at night, so he was sleeping upstairs, and I was downstairs helping my mother by emptying the water, etc. after school.

Then I would have ironing to do on Tuesdays. The ironing I did would be such things as handkerchiefs or socks or underwear. Many times my mother would say, "You'll have to lick that calf over!" Then I'd have to go back over it.

I was ironing with what they called "sad irons" heated on a cookstove on the top. It was a coal stove, not a wood stove.

Those were the days I hated. Thursday was the day we would be finished with the ironing. As I grew older, I had to try to do the dresses - oh, did I hate that!

Mother would tell me I had so many "cat faces" in them I would have to do them over.

But one of these men mother washed for when I was three years old, I can recall. The man came to bring the clothes. I guess I wasn't afraid of anybody. I would just walk up to whomsoever came around, and start to talk.

I said, "I know something!"

Mother said she didn't know what in the world I was about to tell him. He wanted to know what I knew, and I started to recite the 23rd Psalm.

Q. Three years old!

A. Three years. When my sister graduated and went to Chicago, they had to do something with me. When she was helping with the ironing, she would teach me things to keep me out of her hair.

Q. How did this man react?

A. He was amazed. He couldn't believe it. He asked my mother if he could take me to his Sunday School class so she said "Oh, yes".

They carried me into the Sunday School class. Mother said I went to sleep, but by the time they were ready for me, she woke me up. I went ahead and recited it. They couldn't believe it. They gave me a check for a dollar! And so I ran across a picture of that church the other day. It's been torn down and rebuilt - you know how everything is moving out. This was one of those beautiful structures, and I said I would never forget that.

Q. What did you do to have fun when you were a child?

A. Well, when I was growing up, I really thought that I didn't have much fun. I couldn't play out in the street like a lot of the kids or ride up and down the street on my bike or play ball. I was never allowed to play out in the street.

Q. Why was that?

A. Well, my parents thought I belonged in the yard. I could play inside the yard. Even though there weren't that many cars running up and down the street, they just didn't think that was the thing to do - to play out in the middle of the street. So I didn't. I wasn't allowed to. I would play with my dolls or play house or go to some friend's house on occasion. They would come to my house. But I wanted to do the things the other kids did - get out in the street and play ball - play "I Spy" as they called it. But I wasn't allowed to do that. It had to be done inside the yard - inside the fence.

And then I had terrible chores to do. I can recall when I was growing up, we didn't have lawns. We had a garden, but they didn't have any sidewalks or paved streets. Well, they had

sidewalks. They weren't even wooden - they were dirt. The dirt was packed so hard we swept that dirt. I can see myself out sweeping. Youngsters these days would think that was terrible - to sweep dirt. But that's the kind of yard we had.

Here is a picture when I was a little tot sitting on the porch. Mother said I used to like to rock. So I grew up being able, I guess, to entertain myself. To keep me from being so lonely, my mother taught me how to embroider. I can recall I embroidered a bedspread when I was 10. They put it in the fair, and it got a prize.

Q. Was that the first of your many prizes?

A. Yes! Then as I grew older, I learned how to can, and I taught my mother how to can tomatoes.

Q. Where did you learn this?

A. In school.

Q. Home economics?

A. They called it "Domestic Science." They taught you practical things - how to wash greens, for example, and how to prepare meals.

Q. Well, now you have graduated from high school. Then what did you do?

A. I went on to college. I belonged to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and they have several universities - one that I know of in Atlanta, and Wilberforce University in Xenia, Ohio. So I went to Xenia, Ohio, and enrolled in Wilberforce University, but I took a state operated course because I took

Home Economics. It was not on the church side. It was Wilberforce University, but they had help from the state. The state taught all the educational courses, and the liberal arts courses were in the church school. So I enrolled on the state side, but it was all one university. Later on they separated, but they are still on the same campus - quite large. But there are two universities now - Wilberforce University and Central State.

Q. Did you have a scholarship?

A. No. So I went there two years. I graduated during the depression years - 1933. My sister was helping me to stay in school.

Then jobs became harder to get, and people who were graduating were not finding work. It seemed at that time that you had to know someone - a politician - to be considered. So then they started discriminating against anyone from out of the state. Anyone from out of the state really had to have some pull from some "ward-heeler" we called them to get in - even those graduating from Fisk University - quite a reputable school, still.

Those who graduated from Tennessee State - Now it's Tennessee State University. Then it was called A.N.I. in those years. They were given precedent over any other university.

So the third year they sent me to Tennessee State. I wanted to go back to Wilberforce, not Tennessee State. But as I said, money was short. My sister had opened this beauty shop the year before I graduated from high school. Beauticians were really the ones who were making the money then. They decided,

well, since seemingly I was so dissatisfied at Tennessee State (I still yearned to go back to Wilberforce) and money was short, and my sister made my mother stop working because she was having trouble with her eyes.

So it was decided that the best thing for me to do the fourth year was to go to Beauty School. I went to Chicago to Moler Beauty College. My sister had graduated from Burnham's. There were just two blacks in her class - quite a large class.

When I enrolled at Moler they were taking blacks. I don't think there were any in my class, but others were in the school. Anyway, I took the complete cosmetology course. I became a barber and all that.

But I still yearned to teach. I was determined, I guess. I went back and finished my last year at Wilberforce - at Central State.

Q. How did you manage it?

A. I managed it by doing hair - as part time work - and I ironed clothes for the music teacher. Then my parents helped me. My mother thought I was too old to go back to school.

Q. How old were you?

A. I was 31. She said, "You're too old. The kids will laugh at you." I said, "I'll take my chances."

That was the best year I had. I managed very well. So when I was ready to graduate, she said, "You're sure you're going to graduate?" The year before, a friend of hers who thought she was going to graduate had had her parents come to

the graduation when she knew she wasn't going to graduate. Her mother had a heart attack. So Mother said, "Are you sure?" And I said, "Yes, I'm sure."

So I got my degree in Home Economics. I got a B.S. in Home Economics. Then I discovered that in order to teach I needed education courses. I was short 3 hours, so I had to go to summer school and get a 3 hour credit in physical education. This was good because my first job was teaching P. E. and Home Economics under the Smith-Hughes act.

Q. Where was it?

A. In Madison, Illinois. God was in the plan because the day I was marching in the graduation procession, all the other kids had sent off applications for jobs. I hadn't. I had no idea where I would be or what I was going to do. I remember a friend of mine who didn't graduate until summer suggested that I write to East St. Louis or rather Madison. Madison, East St. Louis, and Granite City are all in the same quadrant. This I did. I had written to several places and had not heard from any of them. I didn't apply to teach at home because they didn't pay well at all. I never applied there. Mother didn't know that until a few years later. They wanted me back home, but I didn't want that.

When I decided to write to this place in Madison, I got an answer right back to see if I would be qualified to teach under the Smith-Hughes Act. I was so they asked me to come for an interview. I was very excited, and I got the job!

Q. Was this a segregated school?

A. Oh, yes. It was a high school. It had grades 1 through 12. It rather reminded me of my beginnings. They had a building in the back - an addition. That was for the Home Economics department

Q. What year was that?

A. This was in 1948. I graduated June 3, 1948, and began teaching that August. At first I was on a 10 month's program.

Q. How did it go?

A. It went fine. It went beautifully. I was hired at \$1939. That was better than they were paying in Tennessee. When they found out that I really had credentials for teaching Smith-Hughes, that was on a 12-month schedule. So then I got \$2150. Oh, I just thought that was great, and my parents did too. I stayed there until 1952, and in 1952 we began to hear the murmurings of integration. They were planning to close the school. Integration meant that black teachers either had to regroup and learn new things or be fired because they were not integrating the teachers. They were integrating the students, which was the worst plan they could have got because there were so many problems when they didn't carry the teachers along. The youngsters took advantage of that and the people who were not accustomed to black youngsters decided to treat them differently, which is the worst thing they could have ever done. That created problems.

I decided since I wanted to get a Master's degree, I'd better get it in something that was going to help me. So I got my master's in Elementary Education.

Q. Where did you go for your master's?

A. Northwestern. I went for three summers and commuted on the "el" from my aunt's place. By that time my uncle had died, but she still had the restaurant. So I lived with her until I graduated in 1954. By that time they had changed our school completely to K through 8. They had added kindergarten. The youngsters in 9 through 12 went to the white high school. Teachers who were not prepared to teach the elementary grades were fired.

Q. It was just the high school they integrated?

A. That's all. I can recall that in Edwardsville, which was a county seat, they closed their high school and all those people lost their jobs. They had nothing to do.

Q. You mean they closed the school rather than take black students?

A. Oh, no. They took the black students but because of the shifting of students, they had to close that school.

End of cassette #1. Turn to cassette #2, side A.

Q. Well, Frankye, now you have your master's degree from Northwestern. Then what happened?

A. Well, I continued to teach at the same school, Dunbar, but instead of being Dunbar High School, it was now Dunbar Grade School - so I taught 7th and 8th grades. The school became a K through 8 school. I continued to teach home making and P. E. in the 7th and 8th grades, but I also taught art, and spelling and language arts and science and reading and whatever else we had. I did that until 1959.

Q. And that was the year you came to Decatur. Tell us how that happened.

A. I had a couple of friends who lived here - the Russells. Joe was coach and Josie taught in the elementary school. They had spoken highly of the teaching experience here, and it was a new venture and it sounded as if I could get a job here, I wouldn't have to teach so many subjects. I was teaching so many subjects after having been just a home making teacher who only taught home-

m making and P. E. To have to teach all these other classes to so many different people was difficult. I can remember after I got my Master's degree, I took a course in classroom procedure from the U. of I. extension department. I remember I wrote a poem. I said,

"Not much of me

As you can see

Just ninety pounds

That is, less three.

I teach a class of 41."

So I entered that class to see how to do it.

I applied to several places. I think I wrote to Lincoln, Illinois, and Decatur. I believe I wrote to Maryland because I had some friends who lived there. I heard from Decatur. The other day I ran across the letter in which I applied to Decatur. Then I wrote a post-script. I said, after I had given my qualifications, "I neglected to say I am a Negro." I thought that might be important.

Q. That is really sad, isn't it?

A. Well, it was important because they were looking for a Negro. That was in July, 1959, when I received word from Mr. Gore to come for an interview. I had a long talk with him, and then he sent me over to John's Hill. They needed a teacher. He said, "I would prefer your going to centennial because they don't have a Negro teacher." (They didn't use the term "black" at that time.)

But John's Hill did have one. So I would be the second one there.

I went to be interviewed by both principals. I guess my interview with Mr. Rutherford did the trick.

Q. Which school was that?

A. That was Centennial. I was pleased. I was impressed with the school. And then I had been told I had the job. Then apprehension set in - on my part. I had worked around during the summer when I would go home. I sewed for a lady who was quite an illustrious personality in Chatanooga. Every summer they would have what they called a "Cotton Ball." That was the rich people - the debutantes making their debut - and she made the dresses. All the dresses were alike, with hoop skirts. It was like the "Veiled Prophet" affair in St. Louis.

So I asked her, "What should I do?" I'll be teaching a class where 10% of the youngsters will be black. My home room enrollment was 30 so I had 3 blacks in my home room. I said "Now, I'd like to ask you how I would discipline ~~white~~ ^{black} youngsters?"

She said, "The same way you discipline the ^{black} white ones." She was very frank. She said, "If you have a problem, don't proceed any further until you get that taken care of. Treat them just like you would handle the blacks."

I was so glad I had that talk with her. I needed that because if I had tried to bend over backward and treat the white children better than I was treating the blacks, I would have had a hard way to go. And that is why many whites still have problems because they are so afraid the black youngster will think they are prejudiced. So they go out of their way and overlook many of the things the black children have done. I had one teacher say to me, "But you don't know how many sit there and just stare back at you, rolling their eyes." The evil eye, I guess she thought.

But I said "But just think how many whites I had looking back at me. Suppose I had allowed that to affect my handling the problems."

I didn't, and I had very few problems. Youngsters behaved for me. I had a good year. Plus the Parent-Teachers Association was strong. The first year the lady who was president, Mrs. Wilmer, was determined, because her daughter was in my home room, to see that all the parents came out to attend the meetings. Naturally, they were coming out to see who the black woman was who had come to teach in their school.

Q. What did you teach?

A. I taught science. I had given them my credits for teaching home making, but they didn't have an opening for a home making teacher.

So they had an opening for a science teacher. Mr. Gore told me "I'm sure you can follow the book and handle the classes until you can get to a science workshop during the summer."

I thought maybe I could get a science workshop class at home this summer. That was in Chatanooga. I tried, but they said, "We don't accept colored people." Now they have colored administrators at that same school! At that time it was the University of Chattanooga. Now it's the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

But times have really changed.

So back to the PTA, they worked so well to get the parents out that at each of the nine meetings, the PTA meetings, my room won the trophy, a traveling trophy that went to each class that had the best attendance of their parents. Here it is.

Q. Oh, it's a loving cup! It says "PTA attendance award, '59 - '60." At the bottom it says "Miss Morgan, 103."

A. That was the room number.

Q. That's very nice! So you had a good start in Decatur.

A. I really did. I enjoyed those youngsters. They worked very hard. They were an accelerated group - that particular home room. Although I had six classes and a study hall. So they were really trying me, but with God's help, I made it.

I had a home room, but I also taught that home room.

Q. How long did you stay at Centennial?

A. Until they destroyed it! Eleven years. When I say they

"destroyed" it, I feel that they disrupted so many lives when they changed it to an experimental school - or a laboratory school. They had just spent so much money to bring Centennial up to par and to bring it up to the fire code recommendations. They spent thousands of dollars improving the shop with the new equipment. They had a beautiful science lab that was just dismantled - I hated to see that happen.

Q. Where did you go from there?

A. From there I went to Roosevelt. I stayed there eleven years.

Q. Is that Junior High?

A. Yes.

Q. And you taught science? Do you like science?

A. Oh, yes. After I had to teach science that first year, I enjoyed it so much that when the opportunity came that I could transfer to home making, I didn't want to.

Q. Did you prepare your students for the science fairs?

A. Oh, yes! And I've got quite a lot of pictures of their attending these fairs. We even went to the State to enter the Illinois Junior Academy of Science.

I went there for three different years. I carried youngsters there and for two different years they qualified for the outstanding award. I was so pleased!

Q. Did any of them go on to careers of science?

A. Yes - many of them have gone on to careers of science. And I was for two years president of the East Central Region of the Illinois Junior Academy of Science. That was the year I went to Roosevelt - 1969 and 1970.

Q. Then you stayed at Roosevelt the rest of your teaching career in Decatur?

A. Yes - Oh, four summers I taught special science to a group of 5th and 6th graders. I enjoyed that. I taught this summer class at Woodrow Wilson. Woodrow Wilson was considered to be a better neighborhood than Centennial. I had to bring all of my equipment. I had more equipment than they had over at Woodrow. At my insistence they had equipped Centennial very well. So I would have to bring all that equipment over to Woodrow for that six weeks' summer class. I said, "Why can't I have the class here?" They had put in this laboratory where it would be ideal to teach. But they thought the parents of the youngsters who would be attending there would not allow them to go there. They wouldn't buy it. I couldn't believe their thinking - because they're over there now. It was not a free class - it was a paid class. I think they paid \$30 to enter. The kids thoroughly enjoyed it, and I enjoyed it with them.

Q. Even with the lugging of equipment?

A. Oh, yes! We took field trips and did things. In fact when I began teaching science, I had all my classes to experience things along with me. We did things together. I ran across a picture of the first experiment the kids had ever done. It was the volcano Kilauea in Hawaii that has erupted almost yearly. We did an experiment, and the kids were able to see this and understand it. The assistant principal at that time took a moving picture of the activity in the class. They were thrilled, and from then on it

was fine. Now they call it "hands on," but when I came they had never heard of that. The teacher stood at the desk and did the experiments, and the kids watched it and wrote it down.

I think I did it because of my experience in home making. They did things and that is how a child learns. There was a lot of enthusiasm. There was one teacher who thought we were just playing.

That brings something to my mind. This has nothing to do with teaching. During this time I had always tried to teach the children to see beyond my blackness or to see beyond another person's whiteness. In 1965 or 66, they were trying to get this integration idea really working, and they had all kinds of workshops. At that time they said "You've got all this money. You don't even have to make your own bulletin boards. Just tell us what your ideas are, and we'll have someone to do it. I said, "What?" Because I enjoyed making my own bulletin boards, and I used to have some beautiful bulletin boards. I'll show you some pictures of them.

But this time I did ask them to do something for me. Brotherhood week is usually in February, and I would usually do something for brotherhood week. Black history week came first and then brotherhood week and so I gave the lady my idea of what I wanted done. She was quite an artist so she did what I wanted. I wanted some hands - different colored hands - joining together. She was able to make these different colored hands.

The first day we put those up, I was shocked to discover the next day when I came to school, those hands were gone. The

The black hand (or rather brown) was gone. It had disappeared. The first time I thought it was lost or what-have-you. I told her about it. "I've lost my hand." I figured some kid had come in there and snatched it. I didn't know whom to blame.

The artist said, "That's all right. I'll fix you another." So she fixed me another. The next day I came back, and the hand was gone again.

I told the principal about it. He said, "Miss Morgan, I can't imagine what could have happened."

This had happened on three different occasions before I told him. When I told him, he said, "You let me talk to the custodian. You lock the door when you leave, and I'll have him lock the door when he finishes cleaning."

Sure enough, the next morning the hand was crumpled in the waste basket.

Q. Was it the custodian?

A. No. It was the teacher next door.

Q. Oh!

A. He moved on to another place, but I had no idea. The principal was shocked to discover that that teacher was responsible. It irked him that much.

Then I started seeing things and reading things into what had occurred. When I had a break, I'd go up into the library and sit at a table where I always sat. I noticed one time there was a piece of poster board placed right on the table, which was the size of a card table.

It said, "Your kind of people", and there was a picture of some youngsters who had been in one of our classes. He had gotten into some kind of trouble, had stolen something.

There was printed "Your kind of people;" I thought, "Why would that be put there?", but really at that time I had no idea of what it was all about.

Another time I came in the room, and somebody had put a can on my desk. I took the top off the can, and there was a bat. I didn't know that much about bats, but I just like animals. So I took the thing and was carrying it around.

God was with me because that thing could have bitten me. I took a pencil and opened its mouth to show the children its teeth.

I said, "I want you to see how sharp its teeth are. Would you look!"

I touched the thing, and it would barely open its mouth and show all those little needles.

We used it as a class lesson. Then when I finished, I had some of them to take it outdoors and put it behind some bushes so no one would bother it, and it took off. But that was put there to harm me!

Q. It helped you instead... Why don't you tell us some more incidents that happened during your teaching career?

A. Some time ago - back in 1965 or 1966 when the government provided us with extra money to give added experiences to the

socio-economic deprived youngsters, I carried five classes to St. Louis to Grant's Farm. They enjoyed seeing the animals, especially the Clydsdale horses. Of course, we didn't go into the brewery, but they enjoyed all the animals, the peacocks and the other birds - the exotic ones like the cockatoos, the talking birds. They liked the llamas and elephants. They had a grand time. I think the part that intrigued them the most was seeing the buffalo.

End of cassette, side 2. Turn to cassette 2, Side A.

They had never seen any before. I had never seen any close up. They were interesting to watch.

Another time I carried my home room to Chicago - to the Museum of Science and Industry. We spent the day there. Of course, there was one chaperone for each eight youngsters. It made it quite nice. They enjoyed it immensely. One time I had a club, and I was able to carry my club out to the Redwood restaurant. That was before the old Redwood burned down. They had never been out to eat in such a fine restaurant. They enjoyed that. But soon after that, the money ran out. At least, they had a chance to enjoy some experiences.

Then one outstanding event, to my mind, was when I had two classes to study weather. We sent up weather balloons, and we received an answer from one. We had put a postcard inside each weather balloon. We received a card from a man who had found it while he was out walking his dog. The kids were thrilled.

Q. Where did he find it?

A. He found it near an athletic field near Cincinnati, Ohio.
It went quite a distance. That was in 1981.

Q. And you have a newspaper article here telling about it.

A. Yes. The children were very excited.

Another time in 1976 when everyone was celebrating the bi-centennial, one week I had youngsters dress in early outfits. I dressed that way too - in antique clothes, and someone from the newspaper came down and took our pictures.

I had a beautiful display in the showcase in the main hall - of antique pieces of equipment such as irons that were used for pleating and ruffling that I had borrowed from the Peacock Cleaners. I also had an antique physician's case with his instruments.

Q. Where did you get that?

A. That was Mrs. Wetzel - her father was a doctor. She let me borrow that, and I was so pleased to see some of the instruments they used in those days. It was so well kept. We put that in the display case, and the kids were thrilled to read about how he had used it. It might have been World War I when he used it. I'm not sure.

Q. Well, you had a wonderful teaching career.

A. I did, and I enjoyed it up to the last day I taught. After I had retired, I hadn't planned to teach summer school, but I was asked to teach summer school because the teacher who had

signed up to teach had changed her plans and had decided to go to school herself. The principal was distraught. He was having a time trying to get someone. I said, "Well, if you can't get somebody, I will."

Q. So you went beyond the call of duty.

A. Yes, and I got the nicest letter from him as a result of that teaching.

Q. Well, how long ago did you retire?

A. In 1981. I've had four years of retirement.

Q. And those years have been just filled with activity.

A. Right! I'm busier now than I was when I was teaching - and I don't understand it!

Q. One of your activities is gardening. Will you tell us about your gardening - the kinds of gardening you do?

A. I started off just having a small garden when I first moved here on Forest Street. I moved here just prior to teaching here. I stayed with the Russells when I came here a week before school opened. They carried me around to look at places. I happened to see this house. The landlord was just taking a sign out of the window that said, "For Sale." He decided to let me rent it. I had been to see several places, and I didn't like any of them. Here I think I fell in love with that tree out there, that sycamore. It's such a big tree, an old tree. There was an old shack on that side, and a vacant lot on the west side that belonged to the house next door. I only had just the plot at

the back. This is just a 40 foot lot across the front, but it goes back over 200 feet. So I discovered that the people who had formerly lived here had had a garden. I was so glad because we had always had a garden at home. My parents had always had a garden. My mother raised flowers, but my dad raised food. So I had grown up with gardening. I planted myself turnip greens, squash, peppers, and tomatoes -things like that. Then the next spring I increased my garden because of my neighbor across the street - she's deceased now - but she used to raise some beautiful vegetables. She got me to planting by the moon, watching the moon. She said, "Now you'll find that you'll have better success."

Q. And did you? Scientifically?

A. Well, it had something to do with it - it really did. From then on, I wouldn't plant if the almanac said "Don't plant!"

Q. Coming from a scientist, that should mean something!

A. I used to grow sweet potato vines just for decorative purposes, but my neighbor said "Why don't you plant those, Miss Morgan?" She said, "Just pinch off some of those slips." I had worlds of it - quite a large vine, and I broke those off and planted them. I was so thrilled to get sweet potatoes coming out of the ground. So then I passed it on to the children the next year. I used to have them make gardens in milk cartons. We have some pictures of their gardens. They would take them home and transplant them. My mother said, "Whoever heard of anyone transplanting corn?" I said, "It can be done."

Q. Then you started with flowers.

A. Yes. My mother always had rose bushes - beautiful large roses. I bought myself three rose bushes. I was so thrilled with my roses, but I found out later that they were so small! It never dawned on me that I had to feed them extra food. So a teacher who later moved away invited me to join the Rose Society in Decatur - the Stephen Decatur Rose Society. I think she asked me because she felt sorry for me! My roses were so pitiful. I was very proud of them but they weren't what they should have been. I joined in 1966. That was also the year that I was asked to join the American Association of University Women. I joined those two organizations, and I've been a member ever since. Then after learning how to grow better roses, I increased my garden until now I have over a hundred rose bushes.

Q. Beautiful!

A. At the same time I'm also a Rosarian.

Q. What does that mean?

A. It means that I've been given a certification as Rosarian that I'm supposed to be able to give advice and to consult with rose growers.

Then I became a rose judge in horticulture. Then last year in 1984 I became an arrangement judge.

Q. Where did you learn arranging?

A. First I went to the Springfield Garden Club. I'm also a member of the Springfield Civic Garden Club. Through that group

I entered the flower show school. It's a time lapse of three years. You go for three days for a concentrated session. Then with your studies you can go in the spring and fall of each year. You have to have completed five flower show school sessions. Then you take an examination and you become an accredited judge after you pass the examination. First, you have to judge as a student judge five shows. You have to merit five blue ribbons.

Q. So it really is an honor to become a judge.

A. Oh, yes. Then I became a member of the National Council of State Garden Judges. That helped me become an arrangement judge of roses.

Q. Are roses your only flower interest?

A. No. I like anything that grows. My next love probably would be herbs. I raise quite a few herbs.

Q. Are herbs considered flowers?

A. Yes, they are, but I don't grow them for the flowers. When I exhibit herbs at the state, they can't have flowers on them.

Q. There is a separate category for herbs?

A. Yes. These are culinary herbs for cooking or for potpourri - that sort of thing. Of course, any plant that does not have a woody stem is considered an herb, but these are especially for seasoning - spices and that sort of thing. So that's the kind I have started growing - and I've enjoyed it.

Q. And you have received awards for other flowers?

Q. And you have received awards for other flowers?

A. This past fall I received an award of merit for growing a gardenia plant - it's in my bedroom window. It's probably 23 years old - at least over 20 years. It's full of buds now. It was not in full bloom - it just had a lot of buds with one open bloom, but they gave me an award of merit because it looked so healthy. I've done quite well with my African violets. I didn't do too well this time. I just got second place ribbons, but I have received first place ribbons for my violets in the past.

Q. This table is filled with award ribbons.

A. Yes - they say all sorts of things. For example, that one says "Princess of Arrangement". That was for second place for a rose arrangement.

Q. This one says "Queen of arrangement." That means first place?

A. Yes - that was first. That was the "tower" arrangement. I have two of those for roses.

Q. Have you received some of these for other flowers?

A. Yes - this one is for "butter."

Q. Do you extend your activities to food?

A. Yes - This was for the "Best of Butter." It was for apple butter. There were other butters entered at the fair - there was peach butter and strawberry butter, I think. I got first place for the apple butter. Then they checked it against the first places of these other butters and it was the best of all butters. That was in 1983.

Q. Very good!

- A. I received "Best of all relishes" - that's the one over against the wall.
- Q. What kinds of relishes were these?
- A. They had pickles - pickled beets, sweet pickles, the gherkin type. They had all types of relishes - like piccalilli relish. Of course, you could make up your own. I received an award for this one made of carrots. It was called "Golden Glow" - quite colorful. Of course, they open them up and taste them.
- Q. And it tasted very good?
- A. It was good tasting - it really was. That was in 1982.
- Q. You are very busy!
- A. That's true. Sometimes I work out in the yard until after dark from early morning.
- Q. You must work in the kitchen too - to get all these things ready.
- A. Except for the county, I didn't do any showing of food at the State Fair. It really is a waste of food. The year before I think I entered 15 cans of different food. The canned beans and the canned tomatoes they don't open, but they would open the jelly and butters and relishes.
- Q. So the food would really be spoiled?
- A. Yes -- a waste of food.
- Q. And after all, Frankye, you really ought to give other people a chance!
- A. I said I had received the top award so -
- Q. You could rest on your honors.

A. Now I'm trying to get top awards for my arrangements. Those classes pay more. First place for a floral arrangement brought \$15 and a table brought \$16. This past year they increased the prize to \$18, and with that I got a Revere bowl one year - over on the end there.

Q. Beautiful!

A. Then I got a silver compote for best arrangement in 1983. And the tree back there the faculty gave me when I retired - that tall tree.

Q. Without giving us a lesson, could you tell us a couple of basic points of flower arrangement that people ought to watch?

A. Well, some of the basic principles - the first thing you need is line material. They don't have to have many flowers. They can make an arrangement with a few flowers. It's necessary to have something to carry out the line from one place to another and to take the eye from the base to the top. It should be balanced. To find out how to get balance, there is a visual line with the same amount of weight on each side. It doesn't have to be symmetrical. It can have a different sort of leaf or flower on one side from the other but you should have an imaginary line down the center and decide "is it too heavy or too light on one side?" I have learned the hard way. When I first began to enter flowers, that is roses, at the County Fair in 1972, I got my first ribbon. I was so pleased that I decided I was going to try to enter the state fair. So I sent in my application and entered on "rose day". A lot of

folks thought I was so foolish to try to compete with people from all over the state, but I said, "I'm going to try." So in 1973 I got my first blue ribbon.

Q. Good!

A. That was for a single rose called "Dainty Bess". It's a hybrid tea rose. I had already got my first blue ribbon when I entered my first rose show in horticulture.

Now I don't enter horticulture because I use all my roses to make arrangements.

Q. You not only have had a wonderful career in teaching, but in flowers and gardening... But you have another talent!

A. What's that?

Q. Singing!

A. That is my main talent - my God given talent.

Q. As I told you, someone described you as "singing like a lark," Tell me, have you always been singing?

A. I always sang. I guess I got it from my mother - but my dad had a lovely voice too. He used to sing in the choir. My mother would sing while she was hanging out clothes. One of her neighbors said, "I just don't see how you can sing with all those shirts to wash. I counted 20 some shirts hanging on the line. I don't see how you can sing with all that work." But she did.

Q. Maybe singing helped her.

A. It did.

Q. Did you have lessons?

A. I had a few lessons in college, but nothing serious. Then when I was working at a beauty shop I decided I was going to try to pay for lessons. It was \$3 for 30 minutes. I tried that for a month, but I couldn't afford it.

Q. Did it help you?

A. It helped me some, but I got more help really from having sung in choruses and choirs. Mother would have me go around to groups to sing, and one of the songs I sang was "My Wild Irish Rose." The reason I sang that song was that my dad had found that music on the floor of the car when he was sweeping the train. He brought it home, and I learned to play it. I took piano lessons.

Q. You had a piano in your home?

A. Yes - but I hated piano lessons. I didn't start out hating it. I began taking piano when I was 6 years old. Then my piano teacher died. I was really making strides - leaps and bounds - I was doing so well. I think I just couldn't understand her dying like that. She was such a gentle person and so nice. Then the next music teacher I had was the kind who if you hit the wrong notes she slapped your fingers. Anyway I grew to hate it. But a couple of years ago, I said, "I believe if I needed something to accompany me, and I bought an organ. Now I practice for hours and love it.

End of cassette side #2, side B.

Start cassette #4, side A.

A. I started out in Decatur by singing at First Baptist. Reverend Reppenhager used to have me come to sing at the New Year's Communion Services. He had heard me sing.

But when I first came here, I sang at the school, at Centennial, and Mr. Matthews heard me sing. So he invited me out to Blue Mound at his church. Then I had dinner with Superintendent Brown - County Superintendent. He lived at Blue Mound.

Then I sang at Westminster quite a few times and Central Christian and St. Paul's and First Methodist and First Presbyterian - quite a few churches, beside my own where I sing in the choir.

Q. You have a picture here of a group you were singing in, and there is a very distinguished person in the group.

A. Yes - That was Leotyne Price. I had the opportunity to be enrolled at Central State (Tennessee) at the same time. She was a singer and so was I. I had reentered my last year there in 1948, and she was a young singer at that time. The first time I heard her sing I signed up to join a choral group. We went to rehearsal, and they were auditioning us. When she got up to sing, chills ran up the back of my spine. I had never heard a voice quite like that. I sat on the edge of my seat.

She really had her priorities in line. She knew exactly what she wanted to be. She was a pianist too. Strangely enough, when when she began taking music, she sang alto. Then her music teacher worked with her and built her voice up so it was almost lyric. But she was determined to make it to the top. And she did.

Q. Were you personally acquainted with her?

A. Yes - Yes.

Q. What kind of person is she?

A. She was a strong personality. She had her mind set on music. Sometimes she would become frivolous and light-hearted, but not often. She was quite studious, and she would be practicing, and practicing and practicing.

Q. While others were playing?

A. Right. I lived off the campus in one of the professor's homes. She lived in the senior dormitory - Mitchell Hall. We all became friends. There were three in her room, but there were four beds in there. Sometimes I would go down and spend the night with them in that bunk on top. A lot of times I would go down and fix their hair.

Q. Have you had a chance to see her or hear her in person after you left?

A. Yes. After she started out, she was traveling in Porgy and Bess. They came to St. Louis when I was teaching in Madison, and she gave the people with whom I lived some tickets to come to the show. That was really exciting. Then she came out and had dinner with us. You know, just saying that I know someone who became famous is exciting. I have had a chance to touch some great people - like Marian Anderson. During the month that I was taking lessons from that white professor he got me an opportunity to sing for her. But I was working in a beauty shop, and I didn't have the least idea that I could go places, but he thought that

if I had training, I could have - and maybe I could.

Q. Did you ever consider making singing a career?

A. Yes - but I wanted to be an entertainer like Barbara Streisand. I wanted to be a night club singer, but I joined a church, and when I had the opportunity to sing in a night club - by the way, I got that opportunity at an amateur contest in Chatanooga. I called on the telephone and gave them my name, and they told me to come down. I said, "Is this open to anyone?" They said, "Oh, yes."

But when I got there, I found that it wasn't open to Negroes.

Q. They wouldn't let you enter?

A. They were very diplomatic. They had me sit and wait. When it came time for me to be auditioned, they turned off the sound. I didn't know that, but the man who played for me said, "Wait just a minute." I had sung several bars of "Sweet Little Jesus Boy". He turned on the public address so the people outside could hear. That's when I knew because they came to the window to see who was singing. When I came to that part where it says "They treat you mean, Lord. They treat me mean too," I filled up, but he told me, "Wait just a minute. I'm going to do something."

I didn't know what he was goind to do, but he made provision for a show on my own. I still have the letter. They arranged a show for colored people. Several entered, and I won.

So from that, I got an opportunity to sing at a night club.

Q. Did you ever try it?

A. No, I told the man, "I sing in a church choir. I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I sang in a night club." However, out of that I got to sing in a radio show two or three times, and I was pleased with that.

Q. Does it seem unusual for a person to maintain a voice for as long as you have?

A. I think I've been blessed. I know I've been blessed, because come this May, Lord willing, I'll be 70.

Q. It's remarkable, isn't it? - to be able to continue singing that long so beautifully as you do.

A. Without any formal training.

Q. I wish people could see all of these ribbons and awards you have won.

A. Oh, I don't know. I have pictures here from where my gardenia plant received the "Award of Horticultural Excellence" - that's the top award for horticulture in Pekin, Illinois.

Q. So you travel a lot. Do you drive?

A. Yes - and I entered the show at the Dana Thomas House as a member of the Springfield Garden Club. Then this past fall we had a show at the President's house at Sangamon State University. I got a first on a watermelon.

Q. We just don't have enough congratulations for you to match your achievements!

This has been a really wonderful experience to hear about your life and it seems to be going on for years! I don't

see any stopping you. You're just going on and on. It's really an inspiration for other people - not only to achieve so much in a career, but to make such a rich adventure out of retirement.

A. I think my parents were responsible. When I was growing up, I thought they were very hard on me, but I'm not lonesome and never bored.

Q. I don't see how you could be. Well, thank you so much, Frankye, for sharing your life with us. It has been an enriching experience for everyone.

A. I have had several positions with the Garden Club of Decatur and am now first vice president. That small Revere bowl over there I received from A.A.U.W. for being a "super-recruiter" of membership.

Q. Well, I think you're super in every way. I thank you so much.

You have been listening to the reminiscences of Frankye Morgan.
This is Betty Turnell.

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LOCAL HISTORY

NAACP Holds 45th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY
May 15, 1985 p.1



Frankie Morgan, teacher retired, received the NAACP Achievement Award. Presentation was made by Decatur Mayor, Gary Anderson and East St. Louis Mayor Carl Officer.

Frankie was the 6th Black teacher hired in Decatur. She taught in the Centennial Lab School program and at Roosevelt Junior High School for 11 years.

As a science teacher, she is credited with steering a number of Black students to higher achievement levels.

She is a graduate of Wilberforce University and a Masters degree from Northwestern University.
See Story Page 13

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THE DECATUR REVIEW

LOCAL HISTORY



Staff Photo by Doug Gauman

Antiques Gathered

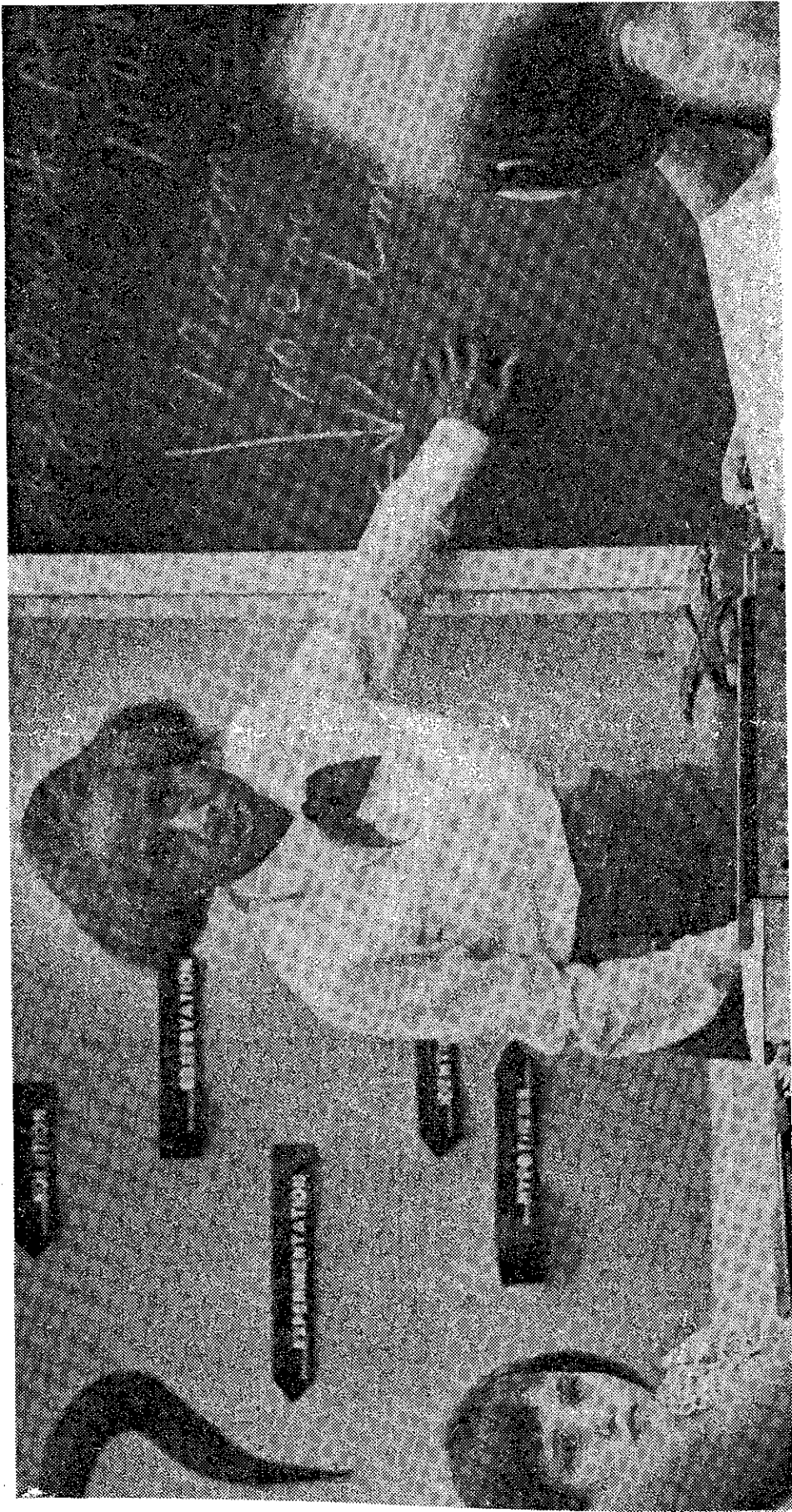
Taking a look at an antique fluter is Roosevelt Middle School science teacher Frankye Morgan, left, and Sally Shields of 2281 Ravina Park Rd., Tom Neeley of 1893 W. Cushing St. and Lisa Benson of 1455 W. Division St. As a Bicentennial project, Roosevelt students gathered a display of antiques today. A fluter is a device for fluting collars.

Merald and Review

DECATUR, ILLINOIS, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1975

PC1

SIDE
1 OF 5



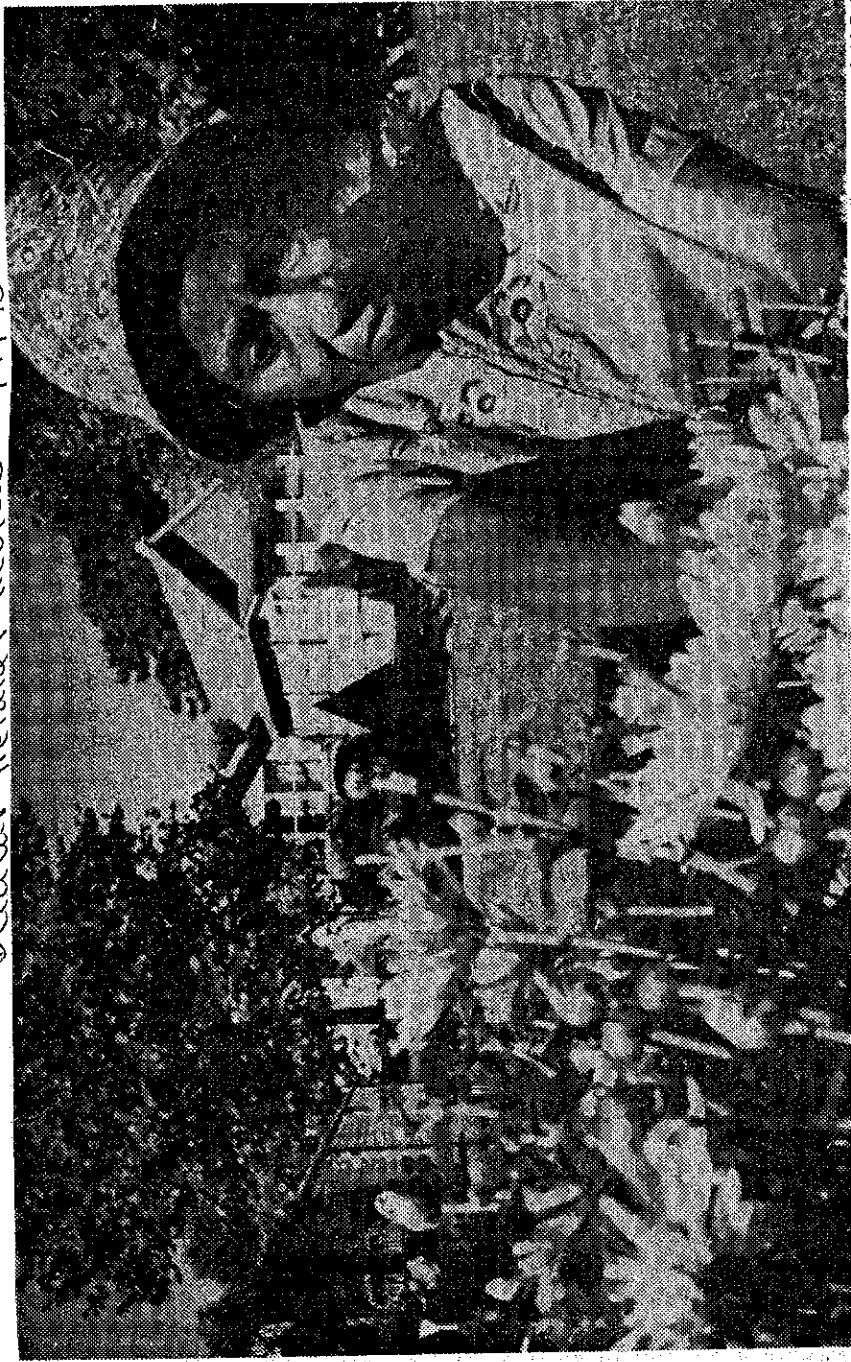
When she's not winning ribbons Frankye Morgan's teaching science to seventh graders at Roosevelt Middle School.

Decatur Herald & Review 9-14-85 p.C1



Backyard roses go to the fair . . . if they're blooming at the right time.

Decatur Herald & Review 9-14-75 C1



When school's out flowers and vegetables get the teacher's attention.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Decatur Herald-Review 9-14-75 pC1

Fair Fever Strikes Farmwise 'City Folk'

By Ruth Heckathorn

Blue ribbons. Red ribbons. Green, white and pink ones. A rainbow of colors, fifty - seven in all.

That's Frankye Morgan's summer harvest from the Macon County and Illinois State fairs. It includes 13 first, 15 seconds and 15 thirds.

And the harvest's grown a little larger every year.

Down on the farm? No, it didn't begin there. Miss Morgan of 1229 W. Forest Ave. is city folk.

But she is as farmwise, as plantwise, as fairwise as the best. That's her philosophy.

"I always think I can do anything as good as anyone else," she says.

It worked. Gathering her courage she picked up a fair book four years ago.

Fair fever struck and lasted. Prizes, disappointments and determination to try again have all followed in dizzying quantities.

The rose she didn't expect to win did. The beans she knew couldn't be beat were. The grapes she planned to enter didn't ripen in time. That's the way it went.

She learned a lot from judges, competitors and by observing.

To her amazement the dishpan size head of cabbage she entered had shrunk when she returned for it.

"By the time the judge pulled off all the outer leaves, it wasn't so big," Frankye chuckles.

"I knew my beans would be fine," she says of her Kentucky Wonders. But, incredulously, they didn't win anything.

"I left them on the vine too long," she explains. "The pods were too full and they should all have been the same size as nearly as possible. Well, you learn by doing."

Peaches, pears, beets, pickles, onions, chili sauce, apples, apple butter. The whim to enter led her on.

More ideas came. Dried flower boxes, a vase, mosaic tile trivets, terrariums, a stalk of corn, a fancy apron, an appliqued tea towel. Even photographs.

"I don't know what made me decide I could enter photography. Oh, boy. Well, I did. After seeing all the other entries I won't do that any more."

Well, maybe.

She shows a closeup of a pink rose dappled with raindrops. "The leaves are too fuzzy," she says, looking intently at it. If she had a better camera or even a tripod...

She flips through a well worn fair book full of red and yellow magic marker lines. "I studied this book religiously," she says, remembering fixing and refixing entries so they would be as nearly perfect as possible.

She couldn't do that with this year's canning items, however. The lid shortage stopped that.

"I had plenty of tomatoes. I just didn't have any lids to start all over with," she says, turning a jar of tomatoes to catch the afternoon light.

But there's next year. And Frankye's working to expand her repertoire of hobbies.

You can bet her work will bring additions to her ribbon collection, too.

"Blue ribbons seem to be the goal you're striving for," says Frankye. "To say you have the best beans, the best roses, the best arrangement. It's really a labor of love."

"I'm going to keep trying until I master it. Once I get over the embarrassment of losing, I'll do all right."

Just like she already has.



Enough ribbons to make an apron.

SIDE 2 OF 5

Decatur Herald
& Review
9-14-75 C1

Farmers May Have Their Tractors, But Frankye Morgan Has Her Hoe

They glisten, those homegrown grapes Frankye Morgan's washing in her kitchen sink.

Cucumbers and a muskmelon, garden fresh, fill the dish drainer. Tomatoes line the windowsill.

"You like apples? You like cucumbers?" Frankye asks.

You'd probably like hers. Backyard produce coaxed to perfect ripeness.

"Did you see my pumpkin? Did you see my watermelon?" Frankye asks. For her garden blossoms with some of almost everything.

"It's a wilderness around here," declares Bertha Morgan, her mother.

The slight woman with dark hair turning to crinkling, cottony white sits at the kitchen table smiling. Proud of her daughter's green thumb and her fair ribbons.

"I'm tired of hearing about it," Mrs. Morgan teases.

"I didn't bother with no gardening," she says of earlier days in Chattanooga, Tenn. "I had flowers, chickens and turkeys. But her daddy did. That's the way she learned."

She pauses, then repeats, "It's a wilderness."

Such a wilderness it is.

Apples perfume the air. Boughs laden with them dip to the ground in their heaviness.

"Breaking branches. I guess it's God's way of pruning the trees," says Frankye.

Gardenias bloom in the yard where Frankye spends much of her spare time.

White stars of stalleta magnolia will come next



Staff photos by Ron Ernst

Garden finery on its way to the table.

spring, she guarantees. Along with dogwood, both pink and white.

An unexpected, swift growth of a fern catches her eye.

"It's running away. Enjoying the sunlight," she reckons.

The roses she learned to care for from her mother are there, too, in a fenced area, over 80 varieties of them.

Raising a hybrid tea rose is one feat. Showing it is another. Frankye credits the local rose society she belongs to for the show tips she's learned.

First attempts to show had flopped.

"The roses didn't do what I wanted them to do," Frankye says. "It was as sad as (President) McKinley's funeral and

they say it was so sad even the horses cried."

Heeding the judges' hints paid off. Blue ribbons began to fall her way. One for novice arrangements from the state fair was so unexpected it stands out from the other prizes.

"I was in a hurry. I was pressed for time," Frankye says. "Everything fell right in place the way I wanted it. I didn't expect to get a first. I couldn't believe it."

Frankye's joy in raising roses and vegetables hasn't remained at home. It spills over to Roosevelt Middle School where she teaches science to seventh graders.

"There's nothing better than fresh grown food," she says. "I encourage youngsters to do this. Girls and boys both love to grow gardens," so they grew things at school.

The curiosity of learning about plants — how they germinate, how they grow, how to graft — stayed with some of Frankye's students.

Summer came and youngsters even phoned her to tell her they had corn, "no kidding."

"You'd think I grew up on a farm," says Frankye. She didn't. Her parents' guidance was enough.

"I say sometimes my parents would show me how to do things as a means of keeping me busy," Frankye says.

"Other children would be playing, running, ripping up and down the streets and I'd be sitting embroidering."

And today she's raising the best culinary, flower and agriculture exhibits.

"Those farmers had their tractors," Mrs. Morgan says, thinking of the fair competition. "Frankye had nothing but her hoe."