

Her First Dance

Collector: Anne O'Brien

Contributor: Margaret Goudie

Anne O'Brien:

My name is Anne O'Brien, I've come today to collect a story, from Mag Beals Goudie on her first dance, today is November 7th and Mag is living in L'Anse au Loup. Alright Mag.

Mag Goudie:

Okay, yes. I'll tell you a story about my first dance. There was a ...a woman who use to come here from St. John's to do canning, she stayed to Aunt Jane O'Brien's and I use to admire the the dress she was wearing because 'twas a big flair tail. So mom had some gingham and I wanted a flair tail skirt. She told me she'd cut it out if I sew it. Anyway, I cut out the skirt and I made it and it waswell to me it was wonderful but I didn't have enough flair in it. (laughs). So mom showed me how to do it. Then we cut out a vest and she drew the flowers and I embroidered the flowers.

Now, 'twas a dance in West St. Modeste, a time they use to have at that time, and dad was going down, and he took me down. He took me down there, we went to the school, I can't remember the name of the school, but it was the old school in West St. Modeste, that's where they use to have the dances at. And my dad lead the first dance and I'll always remember swinging around and we was looking at me skirt, I was, all flowing out around me and everything. So that was my first dance, with my dad.

And mom showed me different times after that, how to tap boots, make boots and the first pair ever I made, she sit beside me with a lamp on the table and showed me how to put the pleats in the skin boots and everything. I was really proud in the first of it but after that I didn't like it one bit, 'cause once I learned how to do it, I had to do it. (laughs)I had no other choice then, only do it.

But ah...and even when they use to ... they use to make those mats with brin... she'd get brin and ah... she'd dry... cut out the scrolls, I don't how it was done but she use to cut out the scrolls and then she'd mark it out with charcoal from the stove. And I I was only a little girl then and I always wanted to be in to it. But she had this hooker, mat hooks, they use to call them then and moms was a cross one. Like a cross. And ah... I use to get it and then, being only a little girl use to get down under and shove it up through, see. Then she'd have to take it out. And after a while I use to draw out the charcoal. I learned how to draw on the old piece of mat. (laughs)

But it not too much more....

Anne O'Brien:

How old were you when you went to your first dance?

Mag Goudie:

Thirteen years old. Now, that's what I was. Thirteen, dad took me to me first dance.

Anne O'Brien:

So you couldn't go unless you were supervised by your father.

Mag Goudie:

Oh no, you couldn't go no where then, 'twas no phones or nothing and dad was going down to the time and he took me with him. And he gave me my first.....had the first....to the cotillion it was. I'll always remember that, it was different then the cuts they haves or not dance like they haves now. Cotillion.

Anne O'Brien:

Oh.

Mag Goudie:

That's it is it?

Anne O'Brien:

That's a nice story, Mag.

Mag Goudie:

God love your heart.