Grandma Emma Gatewood

Emma's famous hiking career did not begin until 1955, after spending 68 of her years at grueling work on a Gallia County, Ohio farm. Here she not only did the laborious farm chores, but raised 11 children and 4 grandchildren. At 68, a lesser woman would have been spent and exhausted, but not Emma. The years of hard work may have etched lines into her face, but they had not even dented her spirit. Obligations as wife and mother fulfilled, Grandma Gatewood was ready for new challenges.

The fateful moment came when Emma picked up a National Geographic article and read that no woman had ever completed the Appalachian Trail. So, on the other hand, went to Germany to visit my mother. For Christmas we were together with my brother and his family, and for New Year my mother and I visited my sister and her family. But since Velda was not there it was only half a visit.

Here in København there are two botanical societies with a membership of about 1000 people. Last year some of the field trips went to Sweden where we visited an island called Øland. This island has the distinction that there grow a few things which grow nowhere else in the world and that is even reflected in the name. Did I write you about that already? If so, please forgive me, but it was such an interesting trip. Also, I do believe that the world's most beautiful spring woods are right here in Denmark. They are near a town called Roskilde. The name is Boesrup skove and Velda and I were just overwhelmed when we saw it. Anemone nemerosa, primula elatior, corydalis cava (both white and red-violet) formed a mat without any interruption as far as the eye could see. Well, there were trees, and they did give a form of interruption, but the forest was not very dense or the leaves out yet to give any particular problems. As you can plainly see, I can hardly wait for spring. We are already discussing possible trips to different places to see and enjoy the scenery.

How is Betty Brown doing? Are some of the friends slowly dropping out of some of the field trips? Many new people which joined the ranks to make things interesting? Time goes on and we change. We hope and wish the changes were for the better for you this last year, and so we wish you the very best.

Greeting to all — Love

s/ Velda & Christoph