

Christmas Ball

Molly Hegman

As I shopped for my formal to wear to the Christmas Ball, I began to get excited about my trip. I was going to spend Christmas with my sister, Sabra, and her family in Ohio. My sister was delighted to have one of the family there. She told me to bring appropriate clothes for the Christmas Ball at the base. I not only bought a dress but I also bought a new coat. When my ride, Peggy, along with her dad and her friend came to pick me up they wanted to put my carefully wrapped new clothes on top of the car. I cringed. I had visions of them flying off the car and getting lost or destroyed. They did fly off but fortunately I was keeping an eye out for this problem and we quickly recovered the packages. This time I put them under my feet.

As we drove straight through from Pensacola, Florida, to Dayton, I expectantly watched for the first signs of snow as I had only seen an accumulation of snow the year I spent Christmas in Iowa. When I first spotted a light covering I woke up the sleepers with my excitement. By the time we arrived in Dayton, early in the morning, it was obvious that it was winter. For me, it was my first white Christmas.

On the day of the ball, Sabra and I spent a long time getting ready. My dress was a long white, strapless gown with a spray of sparkles like snow down the front. I felt like a princess in it. By contrast my sister wore an elegant long black gown and, as was the fashion at that time, we both wore long white kid gloves. Bob, her husband, wore his dress uniform. I didn't have a date but Bob was going to AFIT and had a number of single officers in his class. I had my choice of dance partners. I was a princess for the evening! The ball ended with a delicious breakfast buffet. We arrived home about three o'clock a.m. We stood outside quietly enjoying the spectacular starry night. I did not want the evening to end but of course, it did.

Early the next morning I was awakened by three little darlings who jumped on my bed and kept asking, "Aunt Molly, are you awake?" I didn't want them to disturb their parents so I whispered, "No. Go back to sleep until your mom and dad wake up." I didn't hear them again for a while but when I did, they were shouting along with their dad. "Sabra, Molly! Come see!" I grabbed my robe and ran out to the living room. Bob was trying to open the front door but we were temporarily "snowed in"! I was as excited as the little ones! This was more snow than I ever expected to see and when I discovered that because of the storm I had two extra days in Ohio I was deliriously happy.