

My memories of my fruit picking holiday

Loretta Weinbaum

Melinda: This photo was sent to the Editors for inclusion in the DHJ and originally it was believed that it was taken in a deaf club in North London until I spotted Loretta Weinbaum and Elsie Whitby in the photo so I thought I'd contact Loretta and ask her about the photo. It was not taken in a deaf club but a fruit picking farm!



Loretta is on the right in a polka dot dress and Elsie is next to her.

Here are Loretta's memories of the farm:

Through the Civil Service Department where Elsie Whitby was employed, she spotted an advertisement for fruit picking holiday so we thought it would be fun to go. In June 1956 we went to a farm at Fridaybridge, near Wisbech in Cambridgeshire and stayed for a week. Elsie and I were the only deaf people there. We slept and ate in an Army hut.

The hours were long from early morning until late evening and we were paid on the amount of fruit we picked. We picked strawberries. It was hard back-breaking work but it was not too bad as we could earn more money if we collected as many strawberries as we could and put them in baskets then they were handed in to be weighed. In the evenings we had games and dances in the hall and everybody was nice and friendly, eager to learn sign language.

It was an interesting experience but we went only once!