

**Marie Aponte** (Farnsworth House)

*Interviewed by Perla Santana and Nidia Flores* (English) (2003)

I was born on the 26th of August in 1930. I came here in 1968, about thirty-three years ago. My beautiful birthplace, Honduras, is very tropical, there are many fruits, grains, green trees, coffee, bananas, a hot climate accompanied by plenty of rain, and, at night, there are a multitude of brilliant stars in the sky. I lived with my mother and I have six siblings — four brothers and two sisters. In my house there were many animals like pigs, chickens and dogs. My dog's name was Miss.

I attended a large school for three years where I learned to read, draw, history, and many things of importance. However, I left in the third grade to help my family. Since I was young, I have always been a hard worker. I had to begin helping my mother when I was very young until I was married at seventeen. I always liked to help my mother and I came running when she called. I was the oldest and was expected to help with the house and the care of my younger siblings.

At night the neighbors would get together and tell stories. Sometimes we played hide and seek in the afternoons. I was a very active child. When I was in school, I met a boy who wanted to be my boyfriend, but I wasn't interested in him. Later, when I left school, we became boyfriend and girlfriend. My mother was very upset. One day, she was waiting for me at the corner while I was fetching water. She had a letter in her hand and she gave it to me. I felt so stupid that I had not hidden it in a place where my mother would never have found it. Because of that note I was struck and punished because my mother did not approve of boyfriends. In those days of youth there were many lovers and many furious mothers.

My favorite season is the summer because there is less rain and fewer storms. I love romantic and instrumental music as well as the music of Guatemala, the marimba. I like the instrumental rhythms accompanied by various singers. I have many friendships that have lasted many, many years. Most of which are here.

**Marie Aponte** (en Español)

Nací el 26 de Agosto de 1930. Llegué aquí en 1968, hace treinta y tres años. Mi bellissimo país de nacimiento, Honduras, és muy tropical, hay muchas frutas, granos, árboles verdes, café, bananas, una clima muy caliente con bastante lluvia, y por la noche se pueden ver las estrellas brillantes en el cielo. Cuando era pequena vivia con mi madre y tenia seis hermanos-cuatro varones y dos hembras. En mi casa habian muchos animals: cerdos, gallinas y perros. Mi perrito se llamaba Señorita.

Fui a una escuela grande durante tres años donde aprendí historia, a leer, dibujar, y muchas materias de importancia. Pero me sacaron en el tercer grado para ayudar a mi familia. Desde niña que fui muy trabajadora. Tuve que trabajar para ayudar a mi madre, desde jovencita hasta los diecisiete años, cuando me casé Como que era la mayor, me quedaba en casa cuidando a mis hermanos mas chiquitos. Por la noche, nos

reuníamos con los vecinos para contarnos cuentos y historias. A veces jugamos, por las tardes, a una clase de juego donde nos escondíamos y los otros nos buscaban. Yo era una niña muy activa. Cuando estaba en la escuela, conocí a un chico que quería ser mi novio pero a mi no me interesaba. Años más tarde empezamos a ser novios, y mi madre se enojó. Un día, mi mamá me esperaba en la esquina mientras yo traía agua. En su mano guardaba una cartita amorosa para mí. Fui bien tonta porque no la guardé en un sitio seguro y cuando mi madre la encontró, me castigó. Mi mamá me pegaba porque no me permití a tener novios. En esos días de juventud habían muchos enamorados y muchas madres furiosas.

Mi estación favorita es el verano porque hay menos lluvia, y menos tormentas. Me gusta la música romántica, instrumental y también la música de Guatemala, la marimba. Me gustan los ritmos instrumentales acompañados de varios cantantes. Tengo muchas amistades que han durado una eternidad. Muchas son de aquí.