

"My Mother's Report Cards"

by Elizabeth McQuigg (teacher) (from 1937)

("She speaks so happily and affectionately of her family and her home relationships....")

[Note: The text below is from two typewritten report cards addressed to my mother's parents, when my mother (Hilda Hagen then) was 8 years old (in 1937). At that time, she was living in Paw Paw, Michigan (USA). I don't remember having seen these report cards before my mother passed away (in February, 1981). I found them in a storage box with other papers, in the days between when she passed away and the funeral services.]

February 22, 1937

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hagen,

Hilda continues to do very satisfactory work and to be a fine room citizen.

She is friendly and fair-minded and generous. She never takes more than her share of time and attention and she quickly gives her turn and shares her materials with others when it is necessary to do so.

She is self-confident and unafraid in trying new experiences. She was one of the few girls interested in working at the Work Bench and she went about her problem independently.

She has reported the student council proceedings faithfully and competently.

She keeps her desk and materials in good order.

She is faithful and responsible when she volunteers for room duties.

She is extremely natural in her expression and actions.

She is not afraid to ask questions, and she doesn't accept things without thinking them through for herself.

She has a wholesome attitude toward success and failures. When she was making valentines for the contest she remarked, "I think I worked the hardest but I didn't make the best valentine."

She found a story on the library table which was helpful in our study of Winter Birds. She brought material for the Feeding Table. She did her share in contributing ideas to group discussion and sharing in the responsibilities of this study.

The speed and accuracy of her work in Arithmetic is superior. Her enjoyment of Number is very evident.

She is doing very good work in Spelling.

She can express her ideas clearly and interestingly. Her voice is expressive and her expression animated.

Her Reading Work Book was neat and accurate and attractive in appearance. She has a large sight vocabulary and her comprehension ability is above average.

Miss Kuite reports that she is doing excellent work in Music.

Hilda enjoys listening to stories. She has a well-developed sense of humor, she remembers details of stories that are told or read, and she memorizes quickly and easily.

She has ideas and ability in her Art work.

Yours Very Truly,

Elizabeth McQuigg

June 1, 1937

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hagen,

Hilda has done a fine year's work and has been an outstanding member of the group through-out the year.

She is always in such good spirits and she has such nice self-confidence and self-assurance. You can be sure that when Hilda undertakes anything that it will be carried out successfully.

She gave so many good suggestions for the little play that the children made up for Assembly and she did a great deal through her enthusiasm and interest in carrying it along.

She has a great deal of initiative and is always drawing or writing or finding something related to some class interest.

She has very definite leadership ability and yet she is always just as cheerful a follower as she is a leader.

I have never seen her speak or act unkindly to anyone.

She is a deservedly popular member of the group.

She speaks so happily and affectionately of her family and her home relationships and we feel that these influences are very largely responsible for happy self-confidence in her school relationships.

Hilda's achievement in subject-matter is superior.

Her Reading ability is very satisfactory. She holds her book correctly, always has her story well prepared, has a good posture, and reads in an expressive voice. She is very appreciative of humor.

She has an almost perfect record on her tests in Arithmetic and Spelling.

She works quickly and easily with Art materials.

She writes well and copies accurately. She has made the transition to smaller writing successfully.

It has been a pleasure and inspiration to work with Hilda this year.

My sincere thanks for your interest and cooperation through-out the year.

Yours Very Truly,

Elizabeth McQuigg



From "The Commercial Record" (Saugatuck, MI paper)(March 11, 1960) "Mrs. Florine Gooding, 1st grade, and Mrs. Helen Cunningham, 3rd grade, of the Saugatuck School, spent Wednesday in Paw Paw with Miss Elizabeth McQuigg, supervisor of the training school. The Saugatuck teachers had opportunity to visit the class work and familiarize themselves with the teaching methods. The Paw Paw elementary school is a teacher training school for Western Michigan University."

[Note: "Friendship" quote, next to her picture, is a shortened version of "Friendship's a noble name, 'tis love refined"--which is attributed to Susanna Centlivre "the most successful female playwright of the eighteenth century" (Wikipedia).