

## A TRIBUTE TO MISS EDITH

(Margaret A. Lawless)

"They overwhelmed me with words of praise. I do not feel that they are deserved. If I have performed my teaching duties in a satisfactory manner, it has been because I gave them the same care and attention I would have given my own affairs. If there were a few unpleasant things to contend with, there was always a large measure of pleasure and satisfaction in being able to acclaim some of the things for which I labored. The many recognitions extended me will always be cherished as a memento of a most happy period in my life, and will provide pleasant memories in the sanctuary of my own home."

There was a tinge of sadness in those thoughts expressed to me by Miss Edith, beloved friend of all, when she was being feted this past year on her retirement after forty-three years of successful teaching in our local public school.

Truly this is an age of strenuous business and social activities, and men and women are very much engrossed in their own affairs; but not to such an extent as to be oblivious to the honorable and faithful services of a public servant.

As a rule, we do not commend public servants. If they make mistakes, we criticize and censure them wholeheartedly; if they do their work well, we are silent, excusing ourselves with the thought that it is only what we expected of them, otherwise they would not have been entrusted with the position.

This is not right. When an individual has ability, good judgment, kindness, consideration, honesty, and the ability to make friends and keep them, they should receive wholehearted commendation.

Miss Edith, as she was familiarly known to all, possessed all these qualities, and has left a vacancy which is difficult to fill. She was assured of the community's grateful appreciation of her valuable teaching services, by the honors she so justly deserved.

Truly, today there must be great satisfaction in the hearts of members of the School Board, associate teachers, parents, students and friends, who recognized and paid tribute to a woman of staunch character and high ideals. One who won the love and respect of all. One who left so many happy memories as she traveled through this vale of tears.

## OUR BELOVED TEACHER CALLED BY DEATH ANGEL

Miss Edith Gants Passed Away  
In Sleep Monday Morning;  
Final Rites This Afternoon

All Wenona is mourning the death of a loved citizen, Miss Edith Gants, who passed away in her sleep Monday morning in her home. She had been ailing with heart trouble for several years but maintained a reasonably active life. In June, following her resignation from teaching, she was honored at open house in her third grade room, which was attended by a large number of former pupils and friends. Many times she had said, "I want to be away from here when school starts, so I think I'll take a little trip." This feeling was understandable in one who had taught in the Wenona school for 43 years of her teaching life.

Miss Edith's gracious ways, her kind thoughtfulness of others, her sincere affection for children and adults, make her unforgettable.

She had traveled to more parts of the world than any one else in Wenona and was always willing to share her travels with others when asked to appear on programs, which she did in her unassuming way.

She was a member of St. John's Methodist church, the Woman's Literary Club, the Bond Library Board, and the Eastern Star.

The body was taken to the Thierry funeral home where a constant file of relatives, friends and former pupils came to pay their last tributes. Funeral services were held at two o'clock this afternoon in the Methodist church with Rev. Dee Walburn conducting the service. Mrs. George Lambourn sang two beautiful solos, "In the Garden" and "The Lord's Prayer." She was accompanied by her daughter, Anabel.

Pallbearers were George Ball, Bob Kemp, Howard Campbell, Martin Appleton, Edwin Hawley of Tonica, and Arthur Wilson of McNabb. Interment was made in the family lot in the Cumberland cemetery.

Edith Gants, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Wilson) Gants, was born February 6, 1889 in Varna. While she was still small, the family lived in Fairbury a short time, then moved to Wenona where they spent the rest of their lives.

She is survived by two sisters, Miss Florence of Texarkana, Texas, who was her companion on most of her travels, and Mrs. Stella Rosser of Stanwood, Washington. Both arrived here on Tuesday to attend the funeral. One sister, Mrs. Edna Atkinson, of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and her parents preceded her in death.