

Jesse Lowe Smith

Diary

1934



Photo by Hecketsweiler

Transcribed by

Julia A. Johnas

Forward

The Author: Jesse Lowe Smith was born in Macon, Illinois, on 23 November 1869, to the Rev. Leonard Francis Smith (1838-1874) and Bridget Ann Lowe Smith (1842-1941). His father's diary for that date: "At 5:30 wife bore me another child, a boy weighing 10 lbs when dressed. Dr. Tobey was the physician..." Jesse's father, Leonard Francis Smith, son of Jesse Smith and his second wife, Sophia Lake Spencer, had married Bridget Ann Lowe, daughter of William Fletcher Lowe and Elsea Aquila, on 10 September 1863. They had six children, Elsie (1864), Kittie Grace (1865-1932), Clarence Bruner (1867-1943), Jesse Lowe, Edith (1873-195?), and Lennie Francis (1874-1976).

Jesse Lowe Smith attended grade school in Macon, Illinois. With a passion for books and nature study, Jesse saw his life as a teacher. He attended the Academy in Benton Harbor, Michigan from 1884-1887, living with his Great Aunt Margaret Crooks. In 1888 he returned to Macon where he taught for three years. Teaching and studying independently as he taught, Jesse, at age 21, qualified for entrance to De Pauw University in September 1891. He completed his education at the University of Chicago from 1892 to 1894.¹ After one year at De Pauw, he returned for one term at Macon, and then, with his mother and sisters, went to Lexington, Illinois where he taught for four years from 1893-1897, followed by five years in Park Ridge, Illinois. In May 1902, Jesse came to Highland Park as principal of the Elm Place School. He was Superintendent of Schools for District 107 at the time of his death on 21 April 1934.²

His diaries reveal Jesse Lowe Smith to be a man of many interests and great influence. He was widely known and respected throughout Illinois as an innovative educator and avid naturalist and in Highland Park as an educational, cultural and civic leader. He inspired the Elm Place School teachers to higher ideals of education and the students to a deeper understanding and appreciation for the world around them. He left a lasting impression on all who knew him in life and continues to inspire many who make his acquaintance through his diaries and his legacy in Highland Park.

Identifications: In his diaries, Jesse frequently refers to members of his family. During his years in Highland Park, Jesse provided a home from his mother and for his sister Kittie. They are often referred to in the diaries as M. and K. His brother Clarence Bruner is referred to as Clarence or Clarence B., and Clarence's two sons, Leonard and Clarence, Jr. (Bruner or Junior) are also mentioned. Jesse's sister Edith married Clarence Danforth (Dan, Danforth or Clarence D. in the diaries). His sister Lennie married Arthur Enders, and their children, Robert and Ruth Anne, are mentioned in the diaries.

Transcriber's Notes: Every attempt has been made to provide an accurate transcription of the diary entries with respect to spelling, grammar, and punctuation; therefore incorrect or inconsistent (Mr. Smith spelled the same word in different ways at different times) usage is retained without the use of (sic). When words were added above the line, they have been inserted into the text. When words were inadvertently repeated, the second occurrence of the word has been dropped. Margin notes are indicated as such and are placed following the text that they appeared adjacent to in the diary. When words were illegible, brackets have been supplied enclosing a blank space []. Words that could not be deciphered with certainty have been placed in brackets followed by a question mark [like this?]. Transcriber's notes are indicated by brackets [like this – ed.]. Clippings that were pasted into the diary are described in a transcriber's note, but are not always transcribed.

¹*Catalogue of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity* (New York, 1910). Accessed online at <http://books.google.com> on December 16, 2010.

²*Diaries 1859-1874 of The Reverend Leonard Smith, Circuit Rider* by Blanche Beal Lowe.

Monday, January 1

About 27° above at 7:00 A M. Grew colder during A M – dropped to 19° and remained there all day. Raw winds.

I set men to building up the ice on the school rink this aft & evening.

Just M. E. & I for New Years dinner.

At 5:00 I went to a New Years' reception given at the home of Mr & Mrs Sam Holmes. Numerous guests. Fine time.

Did a lot of desk work today.

Tuesday, January 2

Not much below freezing. - - Our men swept our rink at nine this evening & will try to get another coating of ice on it.

Long conf with Mr. Jensen this aft in his studio.

Spent all morning on the affairs of the Library, School & CWA

Mrs Greene called late & stayed until after supper

Wednesday, January 3

Another mild, gray day, just below freezing.

This A M. I went up to the Holmes Place and saw a flock of 10 or 12 evening grosbeaks feeding on the terrace at the edge of the ravine

Spent most of the morning with Mr Betts, the architect, acquainting him with the situation at School & the Library. He has already taken hold of things.

Set Dan Sullivan at work on the skating rink along with Cortesi. These two are to have continuous charge there.

Gray Stubbs & I met at the Pub. Libr. this evening & made an inventory of some correspondence files of Prof. Gray now in our possession.

Thursday, January 4

Mild. Finally light rain set in after noon & continued into the evening. Then fog.

Various duties at school this A M. The men began taking up stage floor to renew the sleepers.

Mr Morris took Miss Hendee & me out this A M to call on the Recktenwalds on Ridge Road to see their curios, including a bronze cross & chain which Mr. R. ploughed up in his field a few years ago.

This aft to the city. Chased around in the rain an hour or more to get a quart of oil of anilin for use in acid proofing laboratory shelving. Then 2 hours at Newberry & home.

Friday, January 5

Rainy. Misty. A little above freezing.

At school much of day. Mr Menasse, C.W.A. project inspector came to check up. Mr Betts & I conferred with him I sent Mr Betts to Wauk this aft to confer ~~over~~ with supervisor of contracts

Made out payroll. Gave copy of inventory of the Elisha Gray papers to Francis Smigosky at the Libr. to be typed, etc. Prepared a letter to be sent to David E. Gray about the care of the collection

This evening I called on Hiram Kennicott to talk over affairs of the Historical Society. Then I visited Mrs Fred Noerenberg on the same errand.

Saturday, January 6

Still mild. Drizzly. Foggy. Muddy.

At C.W.A. stuff all day. Had payroll made out at Social Service. A session with Mr Manasse, project engineer

Two carpenters called to try to locate jobs. Later I got them in touch with Clark Wright.

Drove up to Wauk this aft to a meeting of "employers" at Settlement House where we were addressed by Mr Kirkham of the C.W.A. & others.

Then at 4:30 had a conf at Pub Libr with Mr Alfred Whitall Stern over historical society affairs

Sunday, January 7

As yesterday.

E & I went on an errand to Wauk at 9:00 but rested afterwards. This aft I spent an hour or so with Mr Murray at school.

Monday, January 8

As yesterday except that it was a little colder.

The sun hasn't been seen now for days.

School again. Miss Wheelock absent. Her father died this morning after many months of invalidism. Mrs Borg, sub.

Morning ex passed pleasantly. Miss Tschirgi just back from her father's ranch in N.M. displayed cotton samples and told interesting facts of N.M. life.

Conferences over C.W.A. & building affairs with Betts & Arnold, Manasse, Duncan, Stiegel, Block, Ralph, et. al. A hectic day Phone talk with Mrs Brandstetter at Wauk. relieved me of uncertainty of procedure.

At school an hour this evening.

Tuesday, January 9

Very much as yesterday. A little colder Sun has not shone itself now for several days.

Morning ex at G.B.R S. Conferences with Mr. Ball, Betts, Manasse, et. al.

Prepared a "project" for more work at E.P.S. – laying slate, repairing attic, etc. & sent it to Wauk. by Mr. Duncan who is anxious to get work for slaters.

Edith & I went down to Geog Soc this evening to hear Father Hubbard, the "Glacier Priest". A fascinating evening.

Wednesday, January 10

A little milder today. Signs of clearing. The stars are out this evening, hardly seen as yet this year

Busy! At 10:30 I went to Ev. to call on Sally Wheelock prior to her father's funeral which took place this afternoon. Several of our teachers went.

P.T.A. this aft & we were addressed by Flora J. Cooke – an excellent talk.

M. E. & I drove to Dr D's office after supper to get me some more tablets.

Thursday, January 11

Sun came out a few hours today. Melting temp.

Edith went to Chic. this AM & met Lennie & they came out together this aft.

Library Board this evening. Absent Gallagher and Howes.

Very busy with school management problems & with C.W.A. projects.

Friday, January 12

A very little sunshine. Mild. Rain set in after nightfall.

A busy day as yesterday.

After school M. E. & Lennie & I drove north through Libertyville to the Spinney Run Farm & visited the herd of goats.

Saturday, January 13

More or less drizzly all day. Attempts at snowfall after dark.

Lennie went home today. E & she went in on 9:00 & E. came back in the aft

I went in on the 10:30 & to Mandel's restaurant for Round Table meeting. Fine time. Good addresses by Prof Otto & Mr Harper Home by 4:00. Called on Miss Emelia Nafe, aged pioneer, & had her sign a membership card for the historical society. Likewise on Miss Julia Monaham for the same purpose – living with her niece, Mrs _____ & Wm Cox.

This evening to our school aud. where under the auspices of League of W. Voters, Sec. of Labor, Frances Perkins, gave one of the most inspiring addresses I ever heard. M & E. not able to go.

Sunday, January 14

Mild. Cleared a little. A thin film of snow melted.

Dan came in this A M on the train.

I went to Presb Ch.

This aft I went in on the 1:32 to hear David Cushman Coyle at the "Forum," 32 W. Randolph. "Needed changes in public opinion for the new social order". Keen, epigrammatic. Stimulating.

Than at 5:00 to Stevens Hotel for Mary Elizabeth Jones' violin recital, Pauline Peebles, pianist. Truly artists! Mrs Cochran & her two sons & daughter and Mrs Millard, husband & two children, also Blanche Popejoy there. I greatly enjoyed meeting them all. Mary Elizabeth looks very much as did her mother, Lida Popejoy, 22 years ago!

Monday, January 15

Clear. Sunny. Thawing.

Morning ex.

A rush of callers & of conferences. A patron, Mr Betts, Mr. Menasse, Mr Holgate. Conf with all 8th graders. Various duties concerned with proposed building operations.

Some of us went to Lincoln School at 3:30 to hear Miss Ethel Kawin talk on habit formation

School Board meeting this evening. Absent – Murray, Getz, Berkson.

Dan & E drove in my car to Wilmette this aft for E to get foot treatment.

Dan went home late this aft.

Tuesday, January 16

Clear. Colder. Didn't thaw today. Wind.

Very busy with C.W.A. matters. Didn't go to morning ex at G.B.R.S. Mr Axt & Mr Theobald came to my office twice today. Helped me make out a revised payroll for last week.

Edith went in to the city to get foot pads changed.

Conf of ex com. at G.B.R.S. P.T.A. this aft.

Took 6:00 for Chic & to 820 Tower Club for annual meeting of Friends of O.N.L. Dinner & addresses by Dr Fuller, the Sec (Andrews), and Mr. Jensen. Good time. Rode to Ev. with the Pattees & Miss Lena McCauley

Set man at work on ice rink this evening.

Wednesday, January 17

About 12° above this A M. Moderated somewhat.

Another day of milling over C W.A. data. Mr Axt took up a place in my office to supervise the work, keep pay roll, etc.

Dinner of Articulation Group at Green Tea Pot this evening. All present. Mr Peer rep. H-S. came to talk over with us the coming election Saturday, to determine whether or not a H-S. be built at L.F.

At 8:00 I met at Pub. Libr. with architects Arnold & Betts & Mr Reuter, millwork man.

Thursday, January 18

Moderated. Sun shone & our ice pond became like a pool

At 9:00 this A M. met at Libr with Garnett & Mrs Rubens & architect Arnold. Let mill work to Mr. Reuter's firm & committed ourselves to completion of the job.

More time taken up by C.W.A. work again today.

My battery ran down & I left my machine at Larson's garage late this evening.

Friday, January 19

15° above at 7:00 A M. but temp rose above freezing

Another day with C.W.A trouble – checking up accounts, debating distribution of pay roll items, etc.

Mr Sherer called at my house at 7:00 this evening to take with him to com. meeting at Wauk a memo of my payroll troubles.

Today mailed to Sec. Frances Perkins the miniature bust of Roosevelt which Olaf Buhl, a skilled worker here, wished to present to her.

Saturday, January 20

Mild. As yesterday.

Collected itemized bills for the C.W.A. inspector & left them on the desk in my office.

Then Mr Axt and I wrote a "supplemental project" for the Pub Libr to wipe out its deficit & give ample funds to complete the project. Then we drove to Wauk. At Mr. Dennie's office we filed our papers & had a friendly conf. Then to Mr. Marsh's office (C.W.A. purchasing ag't) to inquire about some materials.

Home for lunch. Then Mr. Axt & I did some desk work.

Then I took M & E. for a fine ride at sunset time.

This Tp voted today whether to build an H.S at Lake Forest or not. I voted "yes"

Sunday, January 21

Beautiful Spring day Thermo about 50°.

M & I went to Presb Ch. Dan came at 10:00 with Mrs Eklund & her sister, "Miss Emma". They went back at 4:30.

I loafed all aft and evening.

Monday, January 22

A great deal of rain today.

Called the C.W.A. workers together and announced the 4 day week I asked 5 of the 15 to work but 2 days this week, so we could comply with the order to reduce the number employed

Two teachers from Riverside spent the day with us.

Teachers' meeting at 4:00. Florence Miller Nelson was one of our guests.

Went this evening to hear Dr David Seabury at H-S. lecture on "Our undiscovered resources". I think him a quack psychologist with some good ideas.

Tuesday, January 23

A sunny day. Like one in March.

Morning ex at G.B.R.S.

Had our laborers work on additional parking space for autos

Lunch with Mr Jensen at Green Tea Pot.

Then at 3:00 I went to his studio to chat with him & a Mr Stransky who is interested in out-door dramatics.

At 4:15 long conf. with 8th teachers over promotions.

Wednesday, January 24

Fine day. Overcast at its close A little rain.

Hectic day. Various callers of C.W.A. including Geo Melville Smith, one of the successful artists of Chic. representing the Pub. Works Art Projects. He surveyed our school for possible murals, then Pub Libr; then he & I had lunch at Green Tea Pot. Then I took him to Linc. Ave Sch. & left him with Mr Wright

At 4:00 I met a group of Mr Skiles supervisors in his office in Ev. & talked with them about Nature Study projects.

After supper & drove to Dr D's office at Deerf for tablets for M & on the way back called on Mr Theobald

Thursday, January 25

Colder but ranging from 15° above to 25° above. Clear

I had the men work on the skating pond part of the time today & again this evening.

Another day of more or less harassing C.W.A. activities. Finally I had a "showdown" this aft., first phoning Col R.D. Smith in Chic & then H.S. Dennie at Wauk, & was assured that my "supplemental project" was under way.

Miss Feesley of L. Bluff Orphanage came to investigate status of the Ruggles children.

Conf over promotions with various teachers.

This evening an informal caucus at Pub Libr over recommending a new member of the Libr Board. Then I called at Miss Hendee's home & talked over with her various details of collecting & filing historical material.

Friday, January 26

A beautiful day. Windy.

Conf with 4's this A.M. This aft Mr Axt & I went to Wauk. To the Engineer's office, C.W.A. to get our project "straightened out". Conferred with the Purchasing Agent, Mr. Marsh. To the employment agent's office. Mrs Brandstetter. Then to Mr Dennie's office to secure assignment permits for Mr. Bigeley, researcher; Helen Flinn, librarian, & Edna Bloch, steno.

This evening I called on Will Wrenn & notified him that he would be nominated for Pres of the Hist Soc.

Saturday, January 27

Mild, mild! Only a suggestion of rain.

I took my "application for supplemental aid" to Chic this A.M. and gave it into the hands of Col. R D. Smith. Then I shopped at Fields & Abbotts. Lunch at Art Inst & some gallery visits. Home at 3:00
Edith had just left to go to Gary for the rest of the day & tomorrow.

I worked at Pub. Libr until 6:00 & then from 7:00 to 9:00, examining old city records with a view of transcribing portions for the Pub. Libr.

Mrs Garling got supper for us & stayed until 9:00 P.M.

Sunday, January 28

A blizzard without snow – a strong wind – came on us during the morning. Temp was 22° above then. At 10:00 this evening it is 4° below.

Mrs Garling got breakfast & dinner for us. Edith came in from Gary at 7:30 this evening.

I was at school a short time this aft & phoned the men in charge of the skating rink to go on duty at 4:00. I was there again at 8:30 P.M

Left my machine in my driveway at 4:00 & could not start it at 6:00. Had to have Larsons push it into my garage.

Monday, January 29

10° below.

Biting cold will all night. Dry. No snow Didn't rise to zero all day 3° below at 10:00 P.M

Some trouble about heating class rooms. The aud. comfortable at 9:00

Our men sprayed until late last night. Then two of the day men sprayed an hour this A.M. Fine skating this aft & evening.

Helen Flinn, reference librarian, & Edna Koch, steno. began today at the Library on my "white collar project" – historical research. I spent an hour at the library this evening outlining work for Mr Bigley who goes on duty tomorrow as research worker.

Tuesday, January 30

6° below this AM. but temp rose to 15° above. Rising wind this evening.

Our ice rink in fine shape.

As I had not heard from our supplementary project for the Library I sent four skilled workman home this A M for fear of insufficient funds However during day I heard the good news of the granting of the project & I notified the men to return tomorrow.

Spent a half hour or so at the Library with the "historical workers" – Mr Bigley, Misses Flinn & Block.

At funeral of Mrs Ida Cobb at Episc. Ch. this aft – a woman whose friendship I prized –

At skating pond a while this evening.

[Ida Cobb was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, but spent most of her early life in New Orleans. She came to Highland Park in the 1880s with her husband Daniel Cobb (Highland Park mayor 1897-1901). She was a charter member of the Ossoli Club (founded in 1894), a women's social club that was active in civic affairs, of the American Legion Auxiliary, and of the Highland Park Woman's Club. – ed.]

Wednesday, January 31

About 15° above this A M. and though cold winds blew about today it is only 31° at 10:30 P.M.

Our men went to work at the Library and the new millwork today.

P.T.A. at G.B R S this aft High school students furnished music

I went in on the 5:30 and joined Harold Schultz at the Art Inst to attend the artists' dinner & the opening of the exhibit of artists of Chic & vicinity. Leonore Smith Jerrems there & the only H.P. artist exhibiting. Harold S. had 3 pictures. An enjoyable evening. The exhibit not very distinguished

Thursday, February 1

Clear. Cool. 17° above this AM

A full day as usual. Mr Fuhr of the Times System Clocks spent the day overhauling our master clock.

Fine skating again this evening

Friday, February 2

About an inch of snow in the night. A mild day, the sun showing at times.

Still good skating.

Ground hog day.

Miss Cook absent and Mrs Taylor sub.

The (proposed) exec. com. of the H.P. Hist Soc yet to be had a short meeting at the Pub Libr this evening. Present Alf W. Stern; T.H. Morris, Hiram Kennicott, Mrs F.C. Noerenberg, Mrs Reichelt, Miss Hendee & I. Enthusiastic meeting. Set general meeting for Tuesday, Feb 13.

Saturday, February 3

Mild. Overcast. Almost too warm at 10:00 this evening to freeze spray on the pond.

Various errands until noon. Interviews with Mrs Denzel & Miss Behrens over Miss Stark's condition.

To Chic on 1:30. Shopped at Fields & Walgreens.

To Field Museum. Then home at 6:00.

This evening M & I drove to Dr D's office at D for tablets

Then I called on Mrs Denzel & afterwards on the Greenslades.

Edna & Nora Behrens called on M & E. this evening.

Sunday, February 4

Not much change in temp.

Dan came this A M. M. listened in on the radio for church this A M. while I went down to the First M.E. at Ev. Dr Tittle absent but his ass't, Dr Voigt, gave a good address.

I called on Misses Marks & Cramer about Miss Stark's illness, then phoned the latter at Indiana Harbor to rest a few days & let her ass't, Miss Shepherd, take charge of G.R.B.S. kg

I went down to Pattees this evening. Mr & Mrs John Thompson – young people – there. Mrs P & I looked over some bird slides.

At four, M. E., Dan & I went to call on the Reichman's & had a pleasant visit.

Monday, February 5

An inch or two of light snow this A M, without much change of temp. Good skating again this evening.

Miss McDaniel ill today & Mrs Anderson, a sub. Miss Shepherd took Miss Stark's place & a cadet from the Natl Teachers' College assisted.

Plumbing supplies for C.W.A. work at Elm Place came today. I applied for them Jan. 9!

The first of a series of five afternoon conferences today. Kg with Misses Deile & Hoban and 1st grades, Misses Marks & Engwall.

Tuesday, February 6

About as yesterday. Roads slippery.

Morning ex at G.B.R.S.

Conf there this aft with Kg parents & with 1st grades.

At 4:00 Mr Bigley, researcher, & Edna Bloch, steno, & I called on Mr Hawkins and had an hour with him, noting down early happenings in H.P.

Bad cold coming on this evening, so I "lay low"

Wednesday, February 7

A few degrees colder today.

I have suffered from a bad cold (distemper)

Conf this aft at Elm Pl.

2 – 3's and

5 – 6A's.

Small attendance but good interest.

We teachers had a "fireside" talk at 7:00 this evening. Mr Creigh, the speaker. Gave some of his experiences as rep of Cudahys at Washington.

Thursday, February 8

Colder. Snow flurries

I had a wretched cold & stayed in all day.

The Remington man called & I made a trade, getting a new machine for 38.49

Friday, February 9

Down about to zero or a little lower this A M

I was obliged to nurse my cold & stay in all day. I thus missed two aft. conferences – the 7's & the 8's.

Lyman Gurnee called this aft for an hour. Just back from Victoria & Seattle.

Mr Floriani came with Candido Giometti to talk over the proble the latter has with a partially paid contract on a lot near Morton Grove.

Max Suess was repairing our radio this evening

Saturday, February 10

2° above at 7:00. A little snow had accumulated. Temp. rose somewhat during day.

Another "shut-in" day for me although my cold seemed to be abating steadily. A prescription from Dr Davis which I began last evening seemed to help.

Dr Sherwin called for an hour or so this AM. "Dogs" was the principal topic, the owners of troublesome ones coming in for particular mention.

I wrote some more genealogy letters today.

Sunday, February 11

Rapid rise of temp today. 40 & more above this aft.

Had to stay in all day Wrote some letters on my machine.

Mr. Leech called.

Anne M[e?]ckytink came this aft to be a part of our household. A senior H.S. Vouched for by Mrs A.C. Larkin of Childerley. M. a little under the weather.

Monday, February 12

A beautiful Spring-like day Cardinals vocal.

I was obliged to stay in again but I transacted much by phone & messenger.

I was to have spoken at Rotary at noon but I had the pupils that had appeared in our aud. between 9:00 & 10:00 "sub" for me at the Green Tea Pot at 1:00 & I am told that the Rotarians were much pleased.

Miss Thomas ill. Mrs Anderson, sub. Miss McMunn ill; Mrs Taylor, sub. Miss Stark to be absent yet this week.

Harold Schultz spent an hour with me this aft. Mr Murray called.

Tuesday, February 13

Drop in temp. Our men began to spray the pond again this evening.

I ventured to school today. Felt fairly well but stayed only a part of each session.

My friend, Bess Bower Dunn, (Mrs R.R.) and Miss Hendee were our guests at supper and then we went to the meeting of the historical soc. at the Pub. Libr. A good meeting. Mrs Dunn told us about the old Lake Co. Historical Soc. We elected officers, etc. Wm Wrenn, Pres; Roland Brand, Vice; Mrs Reichelt, Sec. – Ex. Com – Stern, Smith, Morris, Mrs Noerenberg, Miss Hendee

Wednesday, February 14

Temp came up today & ice to thaw.

At school most of the day, but felt punk by dinner time.

Conf at H.S. with Mr. Sandwick over the P.W. Arts Program.

Thursday, February 15

About as yesterday.

Still weak & feverish at times.

Mr Jensen called this A.M.

Various duties filled up my day

I felt too shaky to go to the funeral services of my fine friend, Homer H. Kingsley, this aft at the Cong Ch in Evanston. He died suddenly Sunday morning at Portland. A keen & cultivated mind, a rich personality. Very lovable.

[Homer Hitchcock Kingsley (1859-1934) was the former Superintendent of Schools at Evanston. – ed.]

Friday, February 16

About as yesterday A little below freezing & then a little above

My "grippe" still affects me. I am at my lowest ebb about 3:00 PM Then after a rest & sleep at home I am refreshed & active.

This evening Dr Nicholson lectured on a midwinter trip to the Orient in our aud. for benefit of P.T.A. emergency fund Had a house of 650 or more Fair lecture but of interest.

Saturday, February 17

A fine day. A little above freezing.

M. suffering from a cold such as I have been having. Mine is slowly improving

At my office from 10 to 12. Menasse & Axt came to make out C.W.A. reports, etc. Mrs Stevens, an old time artist, mother of Mrs Percy Prior, came to talk over her lack of employment, etc

At school for a while again this aft.

E & I went down to Iredale Storage late this aft & bot a dresser for the alcove bedroom.

Sunday, February 18

Snow that blew about – two or three inches. Temp 13° above at 10:00 P.M

None of us went out today. M's cold no worse. Mine somewhat better.

Dan came in by train & went back this evening.

I spent some time looking over Washington data.

Monday, February 19

About 12° above this AM.

Spoke at the Rotary at the Green Teapot at noon about the Home Life of Washington

Mrs Garst began as a typist today, making the 5th member of the "historical group", CW.A Teachers' meeting after school.

Skating again this evening.

Tuesday, February 20

1° below this A.M. & rather cold all day Good skating.

Showed Washington slides at G.B.R.S. this AM & P.M.

Conf. over CW.A. work again today – and as usual.

Dan came in this evening – by train.

Wednesday, February 21

Fine day. Warmer. Snow melting. Ice giving way. I let skaters go on after 6:00 P.M.

Showed slides for 1 – 3's at Elm Place at 9:30.

Ex. Committee meeting of P.T.A. (at G.B.R.S.) at 10:20. A M. a disagreeable affair.

This aft the 3's (Miss McDaniel) at E.P. opened their vegetable pit and took out their storage in fine shape.

At 2:30 we had a Washington program in the aud for 5 – 8's. Songs Slides. Used a number of the Washington slides. Children described some; I the others.

Dan went home today.

Our "articulation group" had dinner at the Green Tea Pot.

Thursday, February 22

Colder & remained so all day – below 20° above Ice pond in use all day To be sprayed this evening.

At school most of the A.M. Then at Pub. Libr with Miss Hendee. This aft there again in conf with Mr Bigler & Miss Flinn.

Today signed C.W.A. payrolls & other documents

Through Mr Betts intercession the Gourles have "loaned" the Libr 850 ft of select w. pine lumber, either to be paid for in cash or to be paid "in kind" when the govt furnishes us a supply.

Friday, February 23

2° above at 7:00; only 6° or 8° above this evening. Good skating.

Busy at office all A M Mr Axt, Mrs Garst & Miss Bernardini there all day.

This aft I took our various reports of purchases which we have made up at the dictation of Wauk officials – to Chic to headquarters of the purchasing dept. I managed to get the attention of Maj. E.R.

Rossiter, the head of the huge staff & he took me to ~~one~~ of his head assistant who wrote the Wauk office to push my request for materials for Pub Libr thru, & so my program was a success. Home at 7:00

Expenses .80 + 1.15.

C.S. lecture at Aud this evening

Saturday, February 24

3° below at 7:00. Temp rose slowly but only 10 or 12 above

Trouble starting my car again, this finally traced down at Larson's garage to worn-out brushes, etc.

Various errands this A M, then to city on 12:30. Took three mounts from swinging frames to Abbott's for repairs.

Then to Chic Woman's Club to take part in prog. of Wild Flower Preserv Soc. Mrs Corey, Pres. Mrs Frank Dudley sang; Mrs Strong introduced me & I commented upon some tree slides which are the property of the Soc. I gave an informal introduction, & showed the slides – this well received Then Mary Payne Beeman performed same service for a set of pictures of desert plants. This was very good

Home this evening, I find the C.W.A. officials have dropped two of our finest laborers, those in charge of the skating pond!

Sunday, February 25

A northeaster at dawn continued until we had 8 or 10 inches of light snow. My auto stayed in all day.

This evening I used a taxi to call on Mr Axt at Highwood

I let two of our eighth grade boys clear the snow off the rink & have charge of it this evening.

Taxi service 1.20

Monday, February 26

3° above. Clear but rather cold all day. Zero at 9:30 P.M.

Left my car at home all day. Took my lunch

At morning ex H.S. pupils appeared who were soloists on Sousaphone, cornet & slide trombone

Mr Axt not able to appear. Miss Bernardini not on hand.

I had Turner & Crowley take charge of the ice pond this evening.

Conf with Denney over the phone about Cortesi & Sullivan who had held that job.

Group teacher meetings this evening after school.

Called on Mr. Murray this evening to secure his approval of some liability (CWA) papers; then on Mrs Greene to leave some tigridia bulbs to send to Lois.

Tuesday, February 27

8° below at 7:00 A M. Rose to 16° or 18° above during day. 9° above at 9:30 PM

Morning ex at G.B.R.S. Conf with 1 – 3's at E.P. at 3:15.

Wednesday, February 28

6° above at 7:00 A M Rose to 32° or more Mild & melting.

Various duties. Made a short call to the Library

This evening at the skating pond a while. Instructed the men on duty not to try to spray.

Thursday, March 1

Much milder but gray skies & melting slowed down.

Mr Dushkin of Winnetka called on me & Miss Voss this A M.

The usual C.W.A. stir about the building.

This aft some of my staff & I went to the H-S to hear Prof Merle Coulter of the U of C talk of the "new plan". Then were shown some of the new talking films of the U. of C.

Friday, March 2

Rained a little in the night & steadily for a while this A M. The snow began to disappear Slippery corners.

This aft I took bird slides & lantern to the Deerfield School to talk to the P T A's but was mistaken in my date. It was to be March 9. Visited a while with Mr. Bates. Then conferred with a I.B. employe who was trimming road side trees, inspected some trimming that had been done in Sunset Park, conferred with Supt Brown of the East Park Dist; visited the Pub. Libr., etc.

Saturday, March 3

About as yest. Above freezing point. Fog this evening

Met Mr Menasse in my office a short time this A.M. Then called on Mr. Axt. Then took our application for additional allotment for 4610 (Elm Pl) to the city (1319 Mich Ave) & delivered it to Col. R.D. Smith who is to try to push it through.

Then to Newberry Library where I worked until 4:30.

Home this evening.

Sunday, March 4

Fine day Spring reminder.

Lopped on bed all AM This aft E & I drove to Ev. to call on the Leon Danforths but did not find them home. Returning we picked up M. & Ann & drove out Wheeling way to see the sunset.

Monday, March 5

Typical windy day in March.

Mr Dushkin & associates at morning ex. gave a very interesting exhibit of musical instruments made in his studio.

Seven men, C W.A. workers, were "dumped" on me this AM & I had to send them away with the explanation that I could do nothing until the govt supplied some materials.

Genl teachers' meeting.

I talked before the Highwood Improvement Ass'n at Herman Juhrend's this evening on "Early days in Lake Co.

Tuesday, March 6

Milder. Below freezing at 7:00 A M

Gen'l ex at G.B.R.S.

Various worries over C.W.A. Phoned Col R D. Smith in Chic.

Went to Ev at 4:00 to give a nature study talk to teachers at Lincolnwood School

This evening I talked to a neighborhood group at Mr Nixon's house north & w. of Blodgett. Showed them map of school districts & discussed situation with them.

E. went to funeral of old Mrs Noerenberg this aft.

Wednesday, March 7

Sunny but cool winds.

Today I got notice of acceptance of our supplemental project 4610, making it possible to continue work at Elm Pl. Sent Mr Axt & Mr Betts to Wauk this aft to arrange the assignment of labor.

Varied day.

This evening I acted as Miss Guiney's assistant at the observatory.

Thursday, March 8

Cool. 15° above this A M Thawed some

Mr Dushkin called to try to organize a 5 – 6 orchestra.

Various callers: Mrs MacPherson; two rep. of Boy Scouts; Miss Peake of Ft Sheridan; C.W.A. men, etc.

We set cement finisher & 3 men to work on basement floor in Kg; two carpenters on shelving; painter & laborer at Library, etc.

Library Board this evening. Full of business. Formal approval of various projects.

Friday, March 9

Colder. Raw, searching wind. 13° above at 10:00 P.M.

Mr Cunningham drove with his wife to St Louis this A M. to see Mrs C's sick brother.

Mr. Greene has been absent three days – death of his mother. Mrs Taylor, sub.

I gave plant house lessons to two groups this A.M – Miss Nixon's boys & Mr Green's. Planted 2 flats each of Rosy Morn & Balcony petunias

At 3:00 gave a bird talk to the P.T.A & 8th graders at Deerfield Had a good time. (Mrs Engstrom, Mrs Williams, Mrs Walton)

Conf with Miss Stine afterward.

This evening Mr Bigley, & Edna Bloch (steno) and I spent two hours interviewing Mr. Olson about past events.

Saturday, March 10

5° above at 7:00 A M. Moderated during day

Met Mr Axt & signed a payroll.

Various errands.

Trimmed my grape vines & saved some cuttings.

At school some time

Took 1:02 for Chic. To Newberry Library where I spent two hours looking up "The Wilderness Way".

At Fields, Horders, & Abbott's; bread at Palmer House. Home at 6:30.

Spent some time on abstracts of school property

Sunday, March 11

Fine day. Milder.

M & I to church. This aft I met Mr Murray at school for a while at school.

Dan came in to stay until tomorrow.

Monday, March 12

Much milder. A fine Spring day.

At morning ex our orchestra played, the 7th graders with Miss Deile, sang "Lovely appear", & two H-S. pupils played beautiful solos.

I went with Mr Axt to Wauk at 12:30. After lunch we visited Mr Hoerman (purchases), Mr Dennie's office, Mrs Diamond's, & Mr Eddy's (paymaster). Then called on Mrs Dunn in the Probate Clerk's office & on Mr Hendee who let us, under guidance of Mr Houston, go into the vault & look up some tax books of 1853-8 inclusive.

School Board this evening. All present. Made up a slate for coming election.

Tuesday, March 13

Fine day until afternoon when late came up a light rain & a driving snow for two hours or so, mostly melting.

Morning ex at G.B.R.S. was a joint "show" at 10:30 by Miss Stine's group.

This aft at 1:30 and at Elm Pl. at 2:30 a Mr. Anderson, rancher, etc., of N. Mex, & a Pueblo Indian, Running Buffalo, gave an excellent entertainment We financed it by collection in each room.

I went down to Lincolnwood School & gave another nature talk at four. Well received A chat with Myrtle English & Olive Enoch.

Wednesday, March 14

Fine March day Snow vanished everywhere except from sheltered places.

Obliged to give much time today to C.W.A. work – at Library and at school.

This evening to dinner of Fellowship Club at Presb Ch. Rufus Dawes spoke on the Century of Progress exposition Interesting.

Thursday, March 15

A fine day. - - - At 5:30 after a teachers meeting some of us drove out on Ridge Road to see our first robin, meadowlarks & redwings.

Three Evanst teachers came this A.M & a Miss Bean from Oak Park. I showed them nature equipment at E.P. & then took them to G.B.R.S. I let them see some 4's resetting geraniums

This aft I went back there & gave a planting lesson (onions) to some 4's.

Conf with Misses Grenoble, Grunewald, Nixon, & Sprague.

Friday, March 16

A fine day. Before school I drove out Ridge Road to hear the meadowlarks. Saw a robin & a number of starlings.

Bluebirds arrived at Mr Leech's shelf this morning

Some visitors at G.B.R.S. a short time this A.M – from Maywood – Mr La Rowe with them

More C.W.A. work today Visited some rooms. Conf with two of the boys

Called on Wm & Mrs Dooley at 5:00 & checked up on history of Port C school

Saturday, March 17

At daybreak a thunder clap or two! Rained much of A.M. This aft it snowed a while then cleared. A high wind & drop in temp

C.W.A again! Conference with Axt & Menasse over a required report. Other errands.

This aft to Deerfield to confer with Mrs Reichelt over old history.

Sunday, March 18

Wind died down in night 13° above this A.M. Moderated during the day. Gray

We did not go to church

This aft I went to the Band Concert of the H.S. in their aud. A good program

Leon Danforth & his wife came in at 4:30 this aft & stayed two hours. Their daughter, Mary, is at Tucson, Arizona.

Monday, March 19

Milder. Snow almost gone.

Morning ex. Miss Stine's pupils gave a Hansel & Gretel play.

At 11:00 Mr Hayford of the Museum of Science & Industry gave a talk with slides about that institution.

The usual C.W.A. trouble this day.

Miss Carrington of the Bannockburn School visited us all day. An unusually interesting young woman.

I took M. to Dr Gordon's at 5:00 for foot treatment. E. having giddy spells.

Prof Gideonse of the U of C. talked in our aud this evening under joint P.T.A auspices. Great talk. I introduced him.

Tuesday, March 20

Beautiful day

Morning ex at G.B.R.S. Over to the Library to see the men carrying up our new steel files into the historical room. Each crated weighted 750 lb!!

This evening drove down to Northbrook School and with my slides spread the gospel of preserving native shrubbery and flowers. Friendly reception.

Wednesday, March 21

Shortly after noon cold winds arose & grew more bitter as day wore on.

The usual C.W.A worry & annoyance today.

This aft Miss Voss' orchestra pupils & the band pupils with her & me went down to the concert at Orchestra Hall. I went in the bus with 33 pupils. Ten or 12 others went in private machines.

It was a splendid concert & the pupils were much impressed.

Thursday, March 22

Raw wind all day

I am nursing another cold.

C.W.A. again as usual. Edith Smith and her cousins, Mr & Mrs Jevne, of Mundelein called this aft.

Friday, March 23

Another raw day A trace of snow.

My cold bothering me but seemingly under control.

Usual C W A. trouble, today.

At B.G R S. plant house with the aid of Miss Meyers' pupils we reset nearly all geraniums needing attention.

My serpent lily there nearly out.

Conf with 8A' teachers over athletics and over "commencement exercises".

Ann went with the band to a contest at Cicero this aft.

Dan came in at 6:00. All run down. Had been in bed since Sunday

Saturday, March 24

Milder but still cool.

My cold much better. Dan felt better & consulted Dr Davis this evening.

I worked at school much of the day. Met Mr Betts & the carpenters; the floor makers also; & Mr Menasse, the engineer.

After lunch spent an hour in G B R S. green house, finishing the resetting of some odds & ends of geraniums.

Sunday, March 25

Fine day. Still cool. Migrants come in slowly.

Dan better today

M & I to Presb Church, Palm Sunday Small house.

This aft Mr. Parrat & I went down to Central Ave & I took four pictures of the corner bldg soon to be torn down

Leon & his wife came up this aft & stayed until 9:00 P.M I took them & M & E & D to Green Bay R S. to see the serpent lily – now in full bloom, & very smelly.

Mrs Moseley called me up this eve & I went down to her house to get two dead hawks Geo had sent me to have stuffed.

Monday, March 26

Mild. Began snowing at 9:00 A M & continued briskly for nearly two hours. Two inches or more on the ground still at 10:00 P.M.

Several visitors from Evanston schools during the day. Spring vacation there.

Miss Elsie Weygand of Francis Parker School here until 11:30, principally to see Mrs Roberts.

Unusually fine morning program. Miss White's pupils (7th) gave spring poems & sang spring songs I showed some slides.

This A M I met Colin Sanborn at 7:30 at Ravinia Station to deliver the two bird specimens to take to Field Museum to mount

This evening I met with a group of about 20 in Mayor Metzels office to discuss the possibility of saloons here.

Tuesday, March 27

Gray Gradually clearing Cool. Little melting.

Morning ex at G.B.R.S. This aft at G.B R.S. a while

Conf with Misses Parson, Jones & McMunn

Called late this aft on Mr Bigley, C.W.A. research worker, who has been at home with the flu.

At the Library on brief errands twice.

Wednesday, March 28

Milder but there was a chill yet.

Two teachers from Evanston, & Frank Balthis, Jr. from Princeton.

Ex Com. of P.T.A. met at our school at ten.

Mr Axt & I drove up to Wauk & at 12:00 had a pleasant interview with Mr Goode who is to take over, as Fed. Admin., all C.W.A. work unfinished at the end of this week Then we went over to the courthouse where four of my staff were copying old tax records

Home again – I attended G.B R S – P.T.A. at 3:00. Mr. Leech & Miss Cramer talked

This evening our "articulation group met at the Green Tea Pot. – Richardson, Loos, Watson, Wright, Miss Caruthers, & I.

Thursday, March 29

Mostly gray. Temp remaining same.

Overhauled our stock of stereographs today Conf with Miss McDaniels & Miss Behrens over these and lantern slides

Miss Nan Rude called today.

Mr Morris & a Mr Smith, a rose specialist

This evening I helped Mr Bartoli & Mr Lichtwald set up Kg room for use tomorrow for demonstration of spinning Then I attended the Camera Club program in the lunch room. Some fine amateur motion pictures.

Friday, March 30

Mild. Gray mostly. Spring-like

Mrs Wm. F. Conlon of Chic came and spent the day demonstrating spinning etc to our pupils who came in relays to the Kg room Very valuable.

Three Evanston visitors whom I showed about. Mrs Ammerman of the L.F. Country Day came to discuss her problem. Miss Blanche Nixon of Hammond & Miss Mahaffy & Mr Little of her staff came to talk school work, etc.

I sent Mr Lichtwald to the city at five with Mrs Conlon & her equipment.

Dan went home today taking my larger serpent lily in a box. It no longer gave off "perfume", but was becoming limp.

Saturday, March 31

Gray A little raw.

At school & library this AM & part of the afternoon. All of my C.W.A. workers on the job. Their last day - - At school they laid a strip of cement floor. At the library my "research workers" copied notes in permanent form The carpenters & the helper working on the historical room have two weeks work unfinished!

Mr Axt & I made out the last payroll this aft.

I worked on genealogy correspondence this evening.

Sunday, April 1

Drizzly before one P.M Then pronounced shower for an hour or more

M. E. Ann & I went to Presb Church this A.M. Fine music. A crowd.

This aft M. E. & I went to Bethany Church at 4:30 to hear a cantata. Creditably done. A fine spirit at that church.

Wrote today to Mrs Frank Stembler, Kilawog, N.Y, a descendant of Mordecai Lowe & to Mrs Julia Wightman, 1366 Challen Ave., Jacksonville, Fla., a descendant of the Christophers

Monday, April 2

A beautiful day Mild.

Mrs Manning's violin class gave the A M. program.

Miss Bell ill.

After school 12 or 14 of us went to an exhibit of Joe Nash's sketches & paintings at Evanston. (Hildred Densmore's husband). I took the Misses Behrens, Lynch, Stimson & McMunn.

Made a call on a parent this evening.

Tuesday, April 3

The first warm day of Spring. Showers between 9 & 10. Then this evening after cool breezes blew up came a downpour for a time

Morning ex at G.B.R.S.

Various conf this aft.

Took M & E. shopping for shoes at Fells after school.

After dinner this P.M to the Aud. where mass meeting – the town meeting adjourned this aft was continued. Great crowd. Much amusement & no little feeling. Mr Obee presided against the protests of the majority & there were many clashes. Appointed a com. to study Mr. Obee's report & report at an adjourned meeting. Apr 20

Wednesday, April 4

Cooler. Gray, mostly.

Bothered with bowel trouble. Called on Dr Davis this evening.

Conf with Mrs Rubens & Miss Hendee at the Library

C.W.A conf with Axt, Betts, & Menasse.

Took M & E. for a ride after school. We called on Mrs Moseley.

Thursday, April 5

Fine day though sometimes gray.

Miss Voss took 10 pupils to Oak Park to rehearsal of the chorus to sing at the coming musical convention in Chic. I let her use my auto.

Miss Salm of Elgin came with Miss Hendee to call – a student of library work at Madison.

Friday, April 6

Cooler but promising

At noon I set out sprouting onions on the border of the tigridia bed & the geranium bed

Gave spring flower talk to 4's this aft at G.B.R.S.

Drove with M. & E. to Mrs Pattee's at 5:00 to get some bird slides.

At school for a time this evening.

Saturday, April 7

Beautiful day.

Worked in my yard for a time this A M – Uncovered rose bushes, lily beds, etc.

At school a short time

This evening I helped Mrs Pattee give a talk before the Evanst. Bird Club. She talked for the bird slides and I for the flower slides.

Meta Mannhardt, Lena McCauley, Miss Barker, Mr & Mrs Morgan, The Pattees, Estelle Clark Watson, her husband & daughter.

Sunday, April 8

Balmy, even warm

M & I to Presb. Ch. Ann went to Chic for the day with her brother.

Dan came in at 9:00 & left at 4:30. E. rode with him to Chic & came back on the electric.

Monday, April 9

A fine warm day.

Our janitors prepared 8 plots for planting in the V.A. garden but I was too interrupted to help the children plant.

Miss Boughton & two of her staff visited us this A M.

Mr Kirkpatrick, formerly of W. Chic., called to inquire about jobs.

Matheny called.

I had Mr Evans scatter vigoro on our back lawn & wet it down.

The Exec Com. of the P.T.A. entertained all of our staff for dinner at the Edwin Kuh's this evening. Fine time.

M. not well enough to go.

Tuesday, April 10

Cool wind blew up. Gray. A light shower in the evening.

Janitors worked over a number of beds in V.A. garden.

Miss McDaniels – 1 plot each of wheat, rye, oats & barley. Miss Behrens, do, except that barley was with hulls. Miss Stine's 4B's – 2 plots of hemp; Miss Stimson's, 2 of buckwheat; Meyers, 2 of flax; McMunn, 2 of peanuts

At G.B.R.S – Miss Lynch a plat of spring wheat.

M & I rode down to Mrs Pattee's to get some bird slides.

Wednesday, April 11

A raw, windy day with gusts of sleet, melting as it fell.

This A M our men went over to Mr. Alfred Stern's house & took down the toboggan slide he has given us.

I drove to Waukegan & talked with Mr Eddy & Mr Goode about our two unpaid C.W.A. workers.

Edith Smith called this aft.

Conf of teachers after school.

This evening I went to the H.P. Hospital with Dr. Gatewood who examined me there for hernia & prostate trouble.

Thursday, April 12

Gray after 10:30 A M Cold wind.

This aft. Mr Leech & I had an 8th grade group at G B R S. Planted 7 flats of zinnias & 8 of calendulas. Reset a number of tobacco plants.

A day of varied errands

After school M. E. & I drove out to Bahr's planthouse on Ridge Rd.

Library Board this evening. Absent: Gallagher and Sihler

Friday, April 13

A squally day. Frequent flurries of snow which melted as it fell

At G.B.R.S. for a time Mr Leech's pupils planted 9 flats of pompon zinnias

I notified all the teachers informally as to their status for next year

Mr Axt brot in for our files his portfolio full of all details of our late C.W.A. work

During the last three days Mr Leech and Miss Cramer have shown 80 or 90 of the Evanst bird slides to 5 – 8's. After 5:00 PM M. E. & I drove down to Mrs Pattee's to return the slides

Saturday, April 14

Spring like but still cool.

This A.M. I took Candido Giometti & one Olari (interpreter) over to Morton Grove to see a lot which G. bot on contract & to talk with the village collector about special assessments. We then stopped at Winnetka where we got G's original contract left with a real estate agent two years ago.

This aft – school election. During the aft it became apparent that some name was being written in & so I got Sam Smith to work for the ticket & I summoned Mr Murray from the golf links Our ticket – Mr Murray 146; Mrs MacPherson 134; Getz 123; Swanson 121. Opposition 40.

This evening the Episcopalian Guild gave a radio revue to a big crowd in our aud. Great success.

Sunday, April 15

Gray. Mild. Threatening

Dan came in time for breakfast & stayed over this evening. He & E had a long ride this aft, then picked up M & me for a moderate ride

We did not go to church this A.M. I met Dr. Herbst at the hospital for an examination of my hernia, etc

Called up Clarence today and asked him to come up tomorrow.

Monday, April 16

Fine Spring day!

I sent away a letter with copies of genealog. data to Miss Kate S. Curry, Washington & a check for \$15⁰⁰ – to search for data relating to Cornelius Low. – Wrote W.C. Gaede, Wauk, about the nonpayment of Cortesi & Sullivan – Wrote Valos Co. in behalf of Giometti.

This aft potted some desert plants brot me by Mrs Bloomfield.

Clarence D. went home after luncheon. Clarence Smith arrived (drove) from Decatur a little later

Tuesday, April 17

[Entries for April 17 through April 25 were written by Mr. Smith's sister, Edith Danforth. – ed.]

Jesse entered Presbyterian Chicago Hospital for Observation. Fine Spring day. Telephoned me at night that he wouldn't be home, was resting just where he should be.

Edith

Wednesday, April 18

Nice Spring Day.

Clarence Smith went down to Hospital in afternoon to see Jesse. Had a test for heart, lungs, kidneys blood pressure & blood. Test found normal. Sent for Anthony Adverse & last complete book by Burgess to read.

Thursday, April 19

Weather fine.

Clarence Smith went to Hospital to see Jesse found they had worked on him but not very successful with local anasthesia. Told not to come down next day as they were to work on him and he wouldn't be very bright.

Friday, April 20

Fine weather. Clarence didn't visit Jesse, thought he was doing well, as no word came by phone.

Saturday, April 21

Good weather. Clarence S. went to Hospital to see Jesse and found him in bad shape, such a shock, was told by Hospital Surgeon that his case looked bad, but to go on home and would call him if necessary. At 8.³⁰ call came that he had taken a turn for the worse so Clarence started for Hospital before he reached Hospital Jesse had passed on. 9.³⁰ P.M. age 64 yrs. Would have been 65 Nov. 23/34.

Sunday, April 22

Beautiful day, so many friends called to sympathize with Mother. Everyone grieved beyond words.

Monday, April 23

Another beautiful day
Relatives & friends called.

Tuesday, April 24

Glorious Day. Held Jesse's funeral at Presbyterian Church. Church packed, seated over 800 people, many couldn't get in. Beautiful service, simple just like Jesse would have wished it. Sang his favorite hymn Fight the Strong fight. Congregation joining in with the singing just like Assembly Monday mornings at School. Rev. Sherwin Pastor of Church, Rev. Sieman of Bethany Ev. Church Rev. Nye Methodist Church Highwood assisting, all very dear friends of his and the Family.

Wednesday, April 25

Early Wed. morning we took his body to Macon, Ill, his birth~~th~~ place and buried him in the Family Lot. Just two yrs. before we laid our Sister Kittie there. Held service at grave conducted by Rev. Wilson, pastor of Methodist Church at Macon. Wonderful weather, and a large congregation assembled to pay their last respects to one who had taught there and was loved by everyone. Mother not able to go, returned same day having ridden 439 miles.

[Sidney Dealey Morris (died 1972) was the Highland Park Building Inspector from 1924 to 1946. Shortly after Mr. Smith's death, he wrote a letter to Mr. Howell W. Murray, the President of the Board of Education for District 107. It is transcribed as follows: – ed.]

Sunday, April 22, 1934

Dear Mr. Murray,

Word has just come to this home, -as it must have come to every home in Highland Park, -of the death of Mr. Jessie Smith. In our bewilderment I am desirous to express to the president of the board of education, something of what Mr. Smith has meant to us.

After Sunday-school I overheard my two daughters talking together, -"Mr. Keller talked about the twenty third psalm and it made me think of Mr. Smith. I asked my boys if they could say it and they all knew it. They had learned it at school." - - "It was the hymn that made me think of him. – The one by Whittier, 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, Forgive our Foolish Ways! Don't you remember singing it at school? I think it was Mr. Smith's favorite hymn". - - - "I remember his hands. Do you remember how knotty his fingers were, holding up flowers?" - - - "When they put those pictures of Lincoln in the vestibule, I was only in kindergarten and I thought he was Mr. Smith." ---- "That is funny. I thought something like that too, only I thought Lincoln was a relative of Mr. Smith's."

In another home with children, it was the same thing. "What can we do without Mr. Smith".

He has been holding up flowers all his life. Those of us who have had children at Elm Place know that. – And he was related to Lincoln. Maybe we are just realizing that now. What shall we do without him? One thing that we must not do is to be sorrowful. He would not want us to be sad. One thing that we must do is to see that those dependant upon him are provided for. He said to me a short time ago, - "I have been a little discouraged for the last two years, but I am going to keep on fighting, even if I cannot accomplish much. I think that is the right attitude to take." He was happy in his Historical Society. Before he went to the hospital he told Mr. Leech to take care of the children's garden, - - maybe for two weeks. - - Yes! he loved Highland Park, and Highland Park is a better place because of him.

The Sunday the old auditorium burned, I got there just as he came out of the building. He was filled with smoke and talked excitedly. A child came to him and in order to get his attention pulled his coat. He immediately placed his hand on the little one's head and stooping, answered the child's question in a quiet voice. I feel that he has given my children something that we could not give. I have tried to tell him this, but he would not let me.

He sought out the deeper meanings in all the beautiful things in this world, and it was this search, I think, that kept him free from all false emotions and gave true dignity and simplicity to his life.

Some years ago, an Englishman published a poem in the Atlantic Monthly, that seems to me to express our feelings at this time. I do not remember the authors name, but I do remember the poem. If I may, I will borrow it and address it to Mr. Smith :-

"Now you are in your country
And I locked fast in mine,
Walk the white roads in silence,
And see my sun decline.

Know that the stars you talk with
Have eyes on fields at home,
Or buds on banks you dream of
Now break in scented foam;

I see the whole west breaking
In flame again, tonight
And earth to peace receding
Through vales of delight.

For death has hung no silence,
Nor spring withheld one sign
Since you turned to your country
And left me locked in mine.

Sleep in your pleasant country,
Lie down at last, content.
The hills of constant heaven
Your dreams bright battlement

Sidney D Morris

[The May 23, 1934 issue of *The Shoreline*, the Deerfield-Shields High School newspaper, included the following poem. – ed.]

IN MEMORIAM

Lover of God in trees and birds,
Simple faith in simple words;

Heart so kind with time for all,
Has answered our Creator's call;

Gone from us to a richer land,
Guided and blessed by our Father's hand.

You opened our hearts to greater lands,
To you we looked with outstretched hands;

You moulded, shaped, and called into being,
The best that was in us, our faults never seeing.

Your spirit lives on in undying fame,
Jesse Lowe Smith, how sacred thy name.

By J. WILLIAM SCHMIDLEY

[Several years after Mr. Smith's death, a group of teachers who taught at the Elm Place School prior to 1938 began to meet at annual luncheon reunions. They called themselves The "Old Timers." In 1953, the theme of their reunion was "Old Times with Jesse L. Smith." The invitation asked "Do you recall having had some pleasant, unusual, humorous, or vivid experience you would like to share with the "Old Timers" who remember you well? If so, please send us a letter or phone us, telling us about it. We shall appreciate hearing from former students and friends who are also "Old Timers." Several people sent letters sharing their memories of Mr. Smith. They are transcribed as follows: - ed.]

268 Laurel Ave., Highland Park, Ill
June 6, 1952.

My dear Old Timers:

It seems to me that the best thing that I can give you about Mr. Smith, is a copy of the letter I wrote to Mr. Murray on the Sunday we first heard of his death. I expect that the letter is in the Board of Education file, but I do not know. At the funeral it seemed to me that Mr. Sherwin quoted from it, so it may have been given to him. There is a great deal I could say about Mr. Smith, for I loved the man as I have loved few men. Our acquaintance was largely through chance meeting in places not frequented by man so that our meeting was usually a surprise to both of us. He would be digging up plants or shrubs in some swamp or woods, or cutting poles for an Indian tent he had brought from out West. I had just run away from the troubles of an abusive populace. We both seemed to have a sub-conscious feeling that we had found the other out, and I guess we had. At least we both felt the irresistible call of the birds and the flowers and the secret places, so that the things back in the office just had to wait. I laughed when I read in the Duke of Windsor's new book about one of his tutors who at the end of every educational trip with the royal children ended up in a cathedral where the children were left by themselves while the tutor roamed about the building studying the architecture, for that was where his heart was. His hobby was the study of cathedral architecture.

I envied Mr. Smith his knowledge of botany. He could call the plants and flowers by their right names, but I had to talk to them with a sign language. However I knew a stranger when I found one. One day I did find one and brought it to my garden. The following Sunday Mr. Smith strolled over before church and when I showed him the stranger,

he said, -(this does not sound like Mr. Smith, but never the less it is what he said)- he said, "You bugger you! Where did you find that? This is an orchid which has only been found once before in Illinois." In the fall we made a trip to the south bank of the ravine north of the west end of Cary Ave, (Near Mr. Reasers House) and found another, but neither plants survived transplanting.

Mr. Smith and Jens Jensen were on a committee to plant and beautify the city. They worked hard planting the west side of the Northwestern right of way north of Central Ave, the school grounds and some of the street park-ways. The Street Department ripped out the park-way planting and Art Swanson the planting around the schools after Mr. Smith died. Some of the street planting was taken out before his death. This hurt him greatly. He came to the office shortly before he went to the hospital and told me that Jensen was discouraged and had quit, but he said "I do not think that is quite the right spirit. One should keep on fighting"

His frequent statements of that sort are one of the things I found so attractive in him. He had a very definite moral code, and he lived up to it. Because he was his own pupil all other pupils loved him the more. Mary brought home a lesson for me from Elm Place which I have never forgotten. She said "Daddy, Up on the stage this morning Mr. Smith pulled a white handkerchief out of his breast pocket and said 'I put a clean handkerchief in my pocket every morning.'"

There is something diabolical about me that makes me push people until I find or think I find what is below the surface. I have received sharp words from Mr. Smith and I think that I discovered an amount of stubbornness that was likely acquired by accomplishing the things he set out to do. I do not want to give the impression that Mr. Smith and I were close intimate friends. While my affection for him was very strong, largely because my children loved him, with him I was just one among the many. He evidently though enough of me to have me appointed as President of the P.T.A. with Mrs. General Wood as vice president to take up the slack, but I have always felt that he was disappointed with the results. To me it has been a wonderful privilege to have known a man loved by all children and who through simple faith and hope and love, "drew all men to him."

Yours truly,
Sidney D. Morris

268 Laurel Ave.,
Highland Park, Ill.
Tuesday April 21, 1953

Dear Teachers,

Yesterday I received the return of an old song, - "Laborare est Orare," that I sent to Dana Corrough, my former assistant in the Building Department, whom I first met when he was a student at Grinnell.

"Laborare est Orare" sang a mok of ancient time.
Sang it at the early matin,
Sang it at the vesper chine.
"Work is Worship". -God my brothers
Takes our toil for homage sweet,
And accepts as signs of worship,
Well worn hands, and wearied feet.

"Laborare est Orare" Watchword of the old devine,
Let us take it for our motto,
Serving in this latter time.
"Work is Worship, toil is holy.
Let this though our zeal inspire

Every deed done well and bravely
Burns with sacrificial fire.
Elmo.

Dana, -I am proud to say,- is now a successful architect in Stockton California, where he is becoming noted for his school buildings. He wanted the song to give to the latin teacher in the high school, who seeks to add interest in his classes by having his students sing latin songs. All this however is beside the point, except that the song was returned just after receiving your letter, and I thought how well the motto "Laborare est Orare" might be applied to Mr. Jessie Smith. His whole life of labor with his children was a prayer that became a song of praise and gratitude to the giver of all good, for all the beauty in the this world, exemplified in the highest degree by the love of children. He did grow tired and weary. I have been told that some nights he would throw himself upon his bed and fall asleep without removing his clothes, and many a time he has said to me, "It is a great life, if one can only keep it up." And he kept it up. He and Jens Jensen were appointed by the Council to beautify the City by planting the park-ways. When he planted, he dug up many of the shrubs himself from the woods. After all was planted the street department went in and tore out a great many of the plantings. A very short time before he died he came in to see me. "Morris" he said, "Jensen says that he is through, but do you know, I don't think that is quite the right spirit. I think that one should fight to the last."

I think the incident that most endears him to me happened the Sunday the gymnasium burned. I arrived at about the same time that the fire department got there. Mr. Smith came stumbling out of the building, his face covered with sweat, coughing and with his lungs filled with smoke. He was talking excitedly when a little girl came up and pulled his coat. I cannot put into words what happened. The struggle for mastery of himself was quite apparent. He grew calm and quiet, and then placing his hand on the little one's head he knelt on one knee and quietly answered her question.

How the children loved him! Elizabeth says, "I can never forget his hands, -holding up flowers, and Mary says that "when they put the Lincoln exhibit in the vestibule, I thought Mr. Smith was Lincoln. Of course I was only in kindergarten." People have told Betty and me that we have nice children, but what portion of that compliment belongs to us, and what portion should go to Mr. Smith and to you dear teachers?

Sidney D. Morris

650 Central Avenue
Telephone: Hi 2-5171
April 14, 1953

One of the things that I will always remember (this was about my 3rd grade year) of Jessie L. was the early Summer morning he stood next to the greenhouse at the old building leaning against his bike with an old black crow on his shoulder, pants clip holding his pants cuff back, telling us of one of his favorite subjects, birds. It seemed then that the story he told was of the crow, and of his ability to talk. We hated to go to class that morning, at least I know I did. The thrill of bird watching, and of watching growing flowers in the Spring is one of the very warm feelings that Jessie L. implanted in my heart and mind and for which I am truly truly thankful.

Store E. Johnson Class of Jan. 1930

The Old Timers Club

When we purchased our present home in 1910, we found Jesse L. Smith and family our next door neighbor. We found them excellent neighbors until they moved to their new home on Vine Ave.

On Arbor Day morning about 1923 we heard a noise in our back yard. My husband went out and found Mr. Smith planting an apple tree. Mr. Smith said "I am planting this tree for Billy." Billy was our boy about six years old then.

We have harvested many crops of apples from that tree and called it Mr. Smith and Billy's tree. This is but one of the many kind remembrances we have of Mr. Jesse L. Smith.

Gertrude B. Decker
Gertrude B. Decker
1645 – S. Second St-
Highland Park, Ill.

[For references to Billy in Mr. Smith's diaries, see July 3 and November 2, 1921, December 24, 1922, and June 13, 1930 entries. – ed.]

The Old Timers Club
Elm Place School
Highland Park, Illinois

25 April 1953

Dear Teachers :

In remembering Jesse L. Smith from the long gone days of childhood, there are many pictures and scenes that come to mind.

Most wonderfully I remember his auditorium period talks when in 1920 we were a small enough school group to fit into the old assembly room which is now the girl's gym. One year the stage of that small hall needed new proscenium curtains. Mr. Smith asked Lois Larsen and I to come to his office. He asked us there if we, Lois and I together, would sew monk's cloth to make the new draw curtains. With a promise of a little money if we did a good job. He spoke to us so confident in our ability to carry out a responsible job that it never occurred to us to refuse. What a job it was to make the needle go in and out of that heavy monk's cloth but every stitch carried with it so much pride that he had asked US. How grand we felt when those curtains were hung and used.

Another beautiful picture I have every spring and fall when I remember the nature walks Mr. Smith took with each grade. The time he spent with each of us was so personal in our discovery of the small and great things in nature. The walks were never very far from school and were almost always extemporaneous as we never knew when Mr. Smith would walk into class and say, "Well, today is a beautiful day to see what the stream in the ravine is doing. Let's all go on a nature walk."

Nothing in life for me since those days has seemed so thrilling as the small real adventures of growing, living things revealed to us in those nature walks along Sheridan Road and Linden Avenue and down in the cool and shadowy ravines with which our town is blessed.

Mr. Smith, together with his wonderful staff of teachers, planned many imaginative, theatrical events to impress the formative minds of his pupils with the knowledge first learned from books translated into dramatic terms. One of these was the outdoor Pageant held in the spring when the weather could be trusted to be really warm. All the classes would participate, coordinating their studies of American History. What times we had with our teachers rehearsing pantomimes and tableaux. What adventures we had rummaging in the costume boxes in the attic of what is now the intermediate building, trying to find the right set of clothing to make us into Pilgrims, Pioneers, Indians,

traders and explorers. Then the walk, en masse, of the whole school with Mr. Smith at the head and the teachers by the side of each class. Sometimes we went to the Bluff at Central avenue overlooking Lake Michigan, where we reenacted scenes from the discovery of the Great Lakes. Or sometimes we walked to the virgin woods and fields of what is now Sunset Park to reenact scenes of the Pilgrim Fathers and the Covered Wagon Days. We played among the shrubs and trees where the Indians themselves had been a hundred years before and turned the limbs of young oaks to mark the paths they took from Greenbay to Chicago.

Mr. Smith always believed with such conviction in the greatness of America, from its tiniest plant to its greatest citizen. All of us bound together by the sweet chains of memory will always remember the lessons Jesse L. Smith taught us of Nature and the "naturalness" that is with us always, and the good love of our Country which can never be taken away as long as we take part in its development. He handed the torch of "America the Beautiful" to each one of his children.

Catherine

CATHERINE MULLER CHILDS

4th Grade 1918
7th Grade 1921
8th Grade 1922

1724 First Street
Highland Park, Illinois

Mrs. Charles J. Komaiko
1619 W. Jarvis Avenue
Chicago 26, Illinois

April 20, 1953

Dear Old Timers:

I was really touched to have been on the list. Sadly, time has a way of dulling very rich memories, and probably the thing which I remember best of Jesse Smith is you, his hand picked disciples. Really, twenty years later. . . long after parsing and punctuation, long division and state capitols have been forgotten, there is a lovely glow and warmth and a very tender spot for Elm Place, and especially for you who made those years so very good for so very many of us.

I could tell you that every time I throw a gum wrapper on a parkway, I feel guilty and uncomfortable, and I need not add that Mr. Smith conditioned me early to clean walks and uncluttered grass. You know that. You know too that as little kids we called him Jesse "Parkway" Smith, and that occasionally we tired of assembly talks filled with magnolias, pussywillows, and the first robin of spring. But I can tell you that twenty years later thanks to Mr. Smith, Shelley's words "If winter comes, can spring be far behind" have a very poignant meaning. I look for the signs. . . the blue sylla in the grass, the full-throated song of the cardinal, and the flaming yellow of the forsythia. I take my own kids to the woods, and I try to give them a sense of excitement at seeing an acre full of trillium and hepaticas. But the thing which Mr. Smith had. . . that great love and feel for all growing things (including children), I lack. He had that special genius for bringing school gardens to life, tomato seedlings to maturation, and stars into focus. But really by far his greatest talent, was his ability to pick great teachers. . . you, the old timers, who translated his words, his feelings, and a lust for knowledge into a language which we could understand and would never forget.

I've added a couple of diplomas along the way. I've been to college and I've listened and learned from a good many men and women with long titles and fancy degrees. But it's never been the same spirit and it's never been as much fun.

My children will never know the joys of the Christmas play with Miss Sprague and Miss White and Miss Grunewald. They will never chart weather with Miss Kramer or collect pollywogs with Mr. Leach. They will never make a bird house with Miss Turpin (and I did it awfully badly), and they can never have a pretty young teacher with black bangs named Wheelock ushering them into that first exciting encounter with knowledge. They may someday be kept after school for being noisy, but I doubt if they will be lucky enough to have Miss Grenoble urging them on to better prose.

Twenty years is a long time. A new generation, another war, an atomic bomb have separated us from yesterday. But with the changes and the crises and the increasing tensions there is a sense of permanence to life which you and Mr. Smith have bequeathed to us. It is there when the leaves turn and when the heavy skies of winter come. But it is particularly alive now when spring touches the earth and the things which grow. I can't put my finger on this thing, nor can I give it a label. And I guess I can't because you can't categorize a spiritual quality. At any rate all of you walk with me where I go. . . . making life dearer and more meaningful. I am sure I speak for thousands of others who once wore stocking caps and sported bruised knees, who frolicked as Mummers and carried snakes to pet shows.

You have given us so much of yourselves to carry through life, that we can not help but pass on something of this rich heritage to another generation. . . . too sophisticated for stocking caps but desperately in need of the permanent values which were the trademark of Mr. Smith, and you, the old timers.

With love,
Jean (Rosenthal)

Dear Miss Grenoble and Miss White;

Your letter gave me much pleasure.

You are sweet to have a special day in memory of our dear Mr Smith.

He was the first Highland Park man whom I met thirty five years ago. I came out on the train and went directly to Elm Place – He took me all around and told me about the school. As I had a flock of little boys I was interested in School. After my visit with him I went house hunting

Don't believe I can give you any anecdotes. He was here many times as we built our house on one of his favorite spots.

Did see some rare Evening Grosbeaks and called him. He was sure I must be mistaken but hopped on his bike and came. Of course, the birds were gone when he arrived, but I called him the next day and he watched them for a long time.

Saw a bluish gray chipmunk once. Jesse L. told me "there aint no such animal" and that I must have but something in my tea to make me see such things.

Hope your meeting and luncheon tomorrow will be a great success. So nice for you all to get together.

My greetings and warm regards to the "Old Timers Club"

Mary R. Gifford

[Mary Gifford, her husband Roy, and their four sons lived at 300 Central Avenue until they built a house in 1924 at 825 (now 2599) St. Johns Avenue. – ed.]

[In 1976, a number of former students shared memories of Elm Place School and Mr. Smith in letters they sent to Elizabeth Orton Jones, also a former student, who edited and compiled excerpts to create *He Was Our Friend: A Conversational Portrait of Jesse Lowe Smith*. Portions of Ms. Jones' compilation are transcribed as follows: - ed.]

- Anne Wyles Coleman Mr. Smith was so tall and had such long legs. He was our friend.
- Elizabeth O. Jones When we were first graders sitting in the first or second row of seats or on the floor of the stage in the old auditorium we became acquainted with his feet. Remember those wonderful high black shoes with thick soles and boxy toes? These were the feet of a man who knew how to walk among trilliums and hepaticas and birds' nests built on the ground without doing harm to anything. And when we looked up, there were his big hands. They seemed made for holding the hands of children or for holding a small flower brought to him for identification, or a hurt bird. But also they seemed made for using a spade to plant a young tree, or a hoe to loosen the soil along a row of vegetable plants in a garden. Those broad thumbs were for firming the soil in pots of geraniums.
- Robert M. Wood I recall Mr. Smith's demonstration lecture from the auditorium stage, big hands and all, on how to make one single paper towel do the job!
- Thomas Creigh, Jr. At one Monday morning assembly Mr. Smith, concerned about too many paper towels being used in the bathrooms, demonstrated how his hands which were thoroughly soaked in a bucket of water could be completely dried with one paper towel. He had a youngster on the stage to confirm that his hands were dry.
- Annette Jones Reynolds I remember those every-Monday-morning assemblies with their "I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people" - - and how many years it took me to learn the rest! And the twenty-third Psalm where "surely, goodness, and mercy" were the three wonders that would always look after us. Mr. Smith standing center-stage leading us, hands folded in front of him, sometimes rising briefly on his toes, bending those marvelous black shoes. And the hymns, murkily thrown onto the big screen: "I bow my forehead to the dust, I veil mine eyes for shame" etc. Whatever that was all about, we sang lustily anyway. And the hymn stuck. Of more gentle influence was the line: "I only know I cannot drift beyond His love and care" . . . And Illinois! "Grant and Logan and our tears!" - - wow!
- Cecelia Peterson Freeman You never saw Jesse L. Smith without some youngster holding his hand as he walked back and forth at school.
- Ruth Robbins I can still see Jesse Smith riding his bicycle on his way to and from school.
- Violet Axt Hesler It is so vivid in my memory, the sight of Mr. Smith leaving his modest white clapboard house on the corner of Vine and St. Johns that he shared with his mother, and swinging his leg over his bicycle which he rode to school every morning. He had black metal clips to keep his trousers from the bicycle chain. On rainy days he maneuvered a big black umbrella at the same time, watching this way and that, as he pedaled along.

- Hugo Sonnenschein I remember the unique J.L. Smith walk - - a springy-stepped performance I have never seen again.
- Elizabeth Flinn Heintz I was walking back to school from lunch one day with Lou McClernan and I simply had to stop at Albert Larson's store to get one of those candy bananas for a penny. Lou said, "You'll be late! The first bell's ringing!" She walked on by herself. Having bought my banana I walked by myself quite far behind her. "You're going to be la-a-ate!" she kept calling. Eating my banana and taking my time, I kept calling back: "Oh, no I'm no-o-o-ot!" All of a sudden I heard a kindly voice right behind me. "You are going to be late, Liz-beth, if you don't hurry!" It was Mr. Smith on his bike. He passed me and kept pedaling along. Immediately I broke into a run - - and "made it" through the main door just as the last bell began to ring.
- Thomas Creigh, Jr. I remember the many field trips around Highland Park to identify birds, flowers, or tree leaves.
- Carolyn Saathoff Ehlen . . . our field trips with Jesse L. Smith. We students knew every bird, flower, and leaf around this area.
- Barbara Frank Wellman The reading, writing and arithmetic were second compared to nature study, and the things I learned from him have been a lifelong source of pleasure.
- Adeline Evans Ledlie Our field trips to see birds nesting on the ground and the bent tree. What beautiful memories!
- Anne Wyles Coleman Wildflowers . . . hepaticas in the spring in the ravine - - trilliums, and Mr. Smith teaching us never to pick all the violets in a clump - - "Leave some for seed!" - - - You NEVER picked trilliums. . . . Bloodroot and Dutchman's britches. Solomon's seal, wild sweet pea and honeysuckle. . .
- Cecelia Peterson Freeman The one worship that Jesse L. Smith had was that ravine he gave to us. What fun we had playing in it!
- Violet Axt Hesler Wildflowers bloomed in abundance and trees were everywhere, and a little brook ran through the ravine.
- Thomas Hawkins Mr. Smith's personal leadership in appreciation of the world around us enriched all of us. The woods, birds, animals, bugs, and stars have been my lifelong friends because of my Elm Place experiences.
- Violet Axt Hesler I can honestly say that I do not believe there is another school in the whole world that has had the overpowering influence for good that Elm Place has had. I have to thank my school for my values, and the deep ingrained respect for nature that I learned on our fascinating field trips with Mr. Jesse L. Smith. I, in turn, have also taught my children their deep love for nature.
- Thomas Creigh, Jr. I also remember a field trip he took us on one time to Waukegan where we saw commercial fishing packing, the fish dock and boats, salt packaging, etc. It was a most interesting day.

- Elise McBean Willard . . . the trip to Waukegan when my big straw hat with the long blue ribbons fell in the lake and floated around until it was rescued! We then went with Mr. Smith to the great salt bins. We all had a taste of salt which made us very thirsty. We arrived home by North Shore Line thinking ourselves very big to be traveling as far as Waukegan.
- Elizabeth O. Jones Oh, that high-crowned felt fedora hat of his, which invariably looked the worse for wear because of a variety of uses such as transporting birds' nests or plants dug up in the woods! He wore it right on top of his head towards the front and it seemed to add about a foot to his height. When I was quite small I believed Mr. Smith had such intimate knowledge of trees because his head was so close to the branches where the leaves were. I thought he knew about birds' nests and what went on in them because he was able to look right into most of them.
- Anne Wyles Coleman I remember the long pole with a mirror on the end of it Mr. Smith had, to see into robins' nests.
- Cecelia Peterson Freeman The one thing that has been a tremendous help to me: Jesse L. Smith teaching us to recognize all the trees, bushes and flowers. This has always amazed my grandchildren as they have not received this knowledge in school today.
- Robert L. Childs What fond memories, particularly of Jesse L. Smith and his excitement with all nature. The beehive in the window so we could watch what went on inside. But the bees were a little reticent and covered up some of the viewing glass with their wax. Jesse Smith certainly infected me with nature. Wherever I have been around the world I've always bird-watched and looked into other flora and fauna.
- Elise McBean Willard I remember old Jim Crow and Mr. Smith always someplace on the grounds.
- Anne Wyles Coleman Jim Crow - - always untying Mr. Smith's shoelaces - - never would let them alone!
- I remember the 'possum Mr. Smith had in a cage near the plant house on the east side of the old building beside the playground. One day in about fourth grade (I forget what teacher it was) one person was to be chosen from our room to go down there alone to study the 'possum and to draw a picture of it. I was the one chosen. Down I went with my paper and pencil. How strange it was to see the playground empty! No one there. Just me and the 'possum with its pink nose and long skinny tail. I drew it, and went back to my room, having had an experience none of the others had had, and one I was never to have again. Unforgettable.
- Adeline Evans Ledlie Remember Boots, the little dog who sat on the stage alongside of Mr. Smith?
- Carolyn Saathoff Ehlen Boots, the bulldog. He sat on the stage at each assembly. His master, Nelson Forrest, is now the president of the Michigan Avenue C. of C. in Chicago.
- Thomas Hawkins I have always enjoyed recounting how well Mr. Smith treated my good dog Spot over the years. Never was he denied a place in my classes where he often slept at my feet. And when he somehow sniffed out my room, facing the terrace, he would spring in through the window and settle down to a lecture on Greek

mythology, and neither the teacher nor the class seemed to be distracted. Finally, on graduation night, when old Spot sneaked into the auditorium, dashed down the aisle and up onto the stage, Mr. Smith only beamed and gave “honorable mention to our old friend Spot”.

- Anne Wyles Coleman The dogs who used to wait so patiently at the main door of the old building where the bicycles were - - Jane McWhinney’s Irish terrier Mike was one - - the Woods’ dog was another - - to greet their masters and mistresses when the whole school came marching out class by class with the flagbearers at noon to “Country Gardens” by Percy Grainger played on the upright piano in the hall by Miss Lund or Sarah Wood.
- Elizabeth O. Jones How proud we felt when we managed to bring in something so interesting or so unusual that Mr. Smith asked us to take it around to all the rooms! I remember one thing in particular: the Niebuhrs brought a large hairy tarantula in a jar one day. Their father had found it in a bunch of bananas at the store. Interesting and terrifying!
- Bradford Larson I remember the pleasure of ringing the school bell by pulling its long rope; also being a crossing guard when ours was the first school having students with this responsibility.
- Elizabeth O. Jones I always longed to ring the school bell, to be a flagbearer, a crossing guard, an opener of windows with one of those wonderful long poles, and other honorable responsibilities for which, it seemed, only boys were eligible. But one Monday morning when I was in sixth or seventh grade, Mr. Smith, being temporarily involved with an unusually important matter in his office, suddenly asked me to take his place on the stage and to open the assembly by leading the whole school in The American’s Creed. Down the aisle I went, up onto the stage I stepped, and there stood with my knees turned to jelly, my hands like iced clams which quivered as I raised them. Then I squeaked out Mr. Smith’s usually so richly resounding: “All together now!” and somehow lived through the ordeal. That signal honor not only made up for all the bell-ringing, flag-bearing, crossing-guarding and window-opening I didn’t get to do, it was almost - - to quote the Elephant’s Child in Just So Stories - - “too butch for be!”
- Bradford Larson Mr. Smith would sometimes stop at Dad’s store and ask about the family. In this way he may have learned of a summer project that was mine, probably an endeavor suggested by Mother, when I was in the 3rd or 4th grade. I had a packet of aster seeds which I planted in a cigar box. All the seeds came up. They were transplanted into several cigar boxes (easily come by at the store). All the transplants thrived. Now what to do with them? There was an old flat-bottom boat in the barn that was on our lot. Having no value as a boat on account of its age, I pulled it out and made it into a big planter. The asters thrived. Mr. Smith came to see them. (He lived only a block away.) At our first assembly that fall, along with many other “wonders” wrought by students over the summer, he mentioned my boat full of asters. Just that, no more. But how proud I was! Proud and embarrassed.

- Cecelia Peterson Freeman I still remember the black long stockings and black felt slippers that were in the cabinet in the cloak hall, and if we arrived at school with wet feet we had to put them on.
- Violet Axt Hesler I also recall, and I have never heard of another school anywhere that did this: on rainy days, dark grey flannel house slippers and black stockings issued to the children with wet feet. We had to go down into the boiler room where we left our shoes to dry until after school. Once a week all the stockings were washed, so the janitor told me once, answering my curiosity. This must have saved many a mother from having a sick child.
- Anne Wyles Coleman In the old building - - changing to black cotton stockings and felt slippers - - the big furnace where our shoes were dried.
- Violet Axt Hesler I remember times in the lower grades when I used to play hookey and hide under the bridge on Sheridan Road by the Moraine Hotel until I heard the kids coming home for lunch, and then I'd run on home. Eventually my mother caught on and the usual results followed. Mr. Smith was very kind, though, and talked to me for a long time. After that I began to really hate to go home after the bell for the close of school rang. I felt that Elm Place was my home. I recall the library in the new building, off Miss Heffron's room, where a cheery fire would welcome us on cool autumn afternoons and snowy winter days. Window seats encircled the room and we would read the afternoons away by the crackling fire, a perfect place for dreaming. I cannot forget the beautiful, impressive Hall of Pictures in this building, or, perhaps, I should say Palace because to me it was. For years I have kept my children entertained with stories about my years at Elm Place. I used to drop by Mr. Smith's office to talk to him on different subjects. He was a fascinating talker, and so many of his ideals and morals I soaked up into my mind. He never was too busy to help a troubled student, or anyone else for that matter. He made this a better world for me. He and the dedicated teachers at Elm Place School still continue to give me courage and strength to strive for what they stood for.
- Richard W. Hawkins The only time I can remember him losing his cool was when Tom Lester and I skipped school one day for a trip to the beach. He really gave us what for.
- Jane O. Robbins Aside from all the growing up pains and puzzles and pleasures that went on during those years the memory that has stayed with me most is the feeling of something forever good that came into my experience through Mr. Smith's influence, the feeling of goodness and kindness and strength and universal love that Mr. Smith expressed made a lasting impression on me.
- Anne Wyles Coleman I have a friend whose mother knew Mr. Smith. She used to tell a story about him throwing hollyhock seeds out of the North Shore Line train window. Sounds like him, doesn't it?
- - the victory gardens with Mr. Smith during World War I, up at the corner of Park and Sheridan.
- William M. Trumbull In the 1920's - - studies in geology, biology, astronomy, algebra and Latin for

youngsters not exceeding fourteen years of age! I consider him an inspired teacher, educative planner, learned gentleman and humanist. No matter how many hundreds (and ultimate thousands) of youngsters were encharged to him he learned to know each one individually and respected each one.

Violet Axt Hesler

I shall always consider Mr. Jesse L. Smith the most noble of men. His goodness shall continue to go on as long as someone remembers him.