

After 27½ Years—

1941 "Miss Mac" Retires

—From H. S. Faculty

After 27½ years on the Grinnell High school faculty, Hannah McIlrath—known to nearly a full generation of students as "Miss Mac"—has tendered her resignation to the board of education. Last week brought to a close her long career of loyal service to the young people of Grinnell.

"Miss Mac" and her yardstick, patrolling the halls on the opening days of each school year, invariably instilled a rather fearful respect in the hearts of the incoming freshmen. Her command to "clear the hall, now!" was always promptly obeyed by the uninitiated newcomers who doubted not in the least that the yardstick would raise a knob on their heads if they loitered.

Before long, though, they came to realize that "Miss Mac's" bark was much worse than her bite, and that there never was a kinderhearted soul. They came to know her as a patient and understanding friend and a wise and capable teacher.

Her principle subject—geometry—usually proved one of the more difficult in the curriculum for a large percentage of the hundreds upon hundreds of pupils

who passed through her room. It is a tribute to her ability that a vast majority of them did PASS, and carry with them a hard-won knowledge of the intricacies of angles, arcs and planes.

There were two distinct sides to "Miss Mac's" career in G. H. S. Besides her teaching duties, she served for many, many years as Y. W. C. A. adviser. Her influence upon the girls of Grinnell High was perhaps greater than that of any other member of the faculty. To them, through the medium of the Y. W., she became both a close friend and counselor.

Under her guidance the girls' Christian organization flourished year after year and fulfilled an ever important place among the school's extra-curricular activities. It can be said with complete certainty that she will be missed as much in her capacity as guiding hand of the Y. W. as she will be missed as a teacher . . . And the knowledge that she WILL be missed should have been a consoling thought to "Miss Mac" as she hung up her yardstick for the last time, to take leave of the halls she patrolled for so many years.

Thursday, March 7, 1968

Hannah McIlrath Dies In Hospital.

Miss Hannah B. McIlrath, of 1114 West St., died suddenly Thursday morning at Grinnell General Hospital West following brief hospitalization.

The daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Paul McIlrath, she was born at Laurel, Iowa, where she attended the public school. Later her family moved to Grinnell and she graduated from Grinnell High School and Grinnell College where she received her B.A. degree.

Miss McIlrath taught mathematics at Brooklyn before coming to Grinnell high school, where she taught for many years. She was a member of the United Church of Christ (Congregational) in Grinnell and had been a member of the Order of Eastern Star.

She is survived by her sister, Mrs. Sam (Grace) Parker of Gilman, Iowa, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her seven brothers and three sisters.

Private family services for Miss Hannah McIlrath will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Newell E. Davis, minister of the UCC (Congregational) church; and the Rev. Myron Harris, minister of the Northside Friends church, officiating.

Organist will be Norman Goodbrod. Pallbearers will be Fred Johnson, Wendell Kinnaird, Leonard Lukehart, Harold McIlrath, Hugh McMeekin and Delmar Adkins.

Burial will be made in the family plot at Graceland Cemetery at Laurel, Iowa. Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home for additional information.