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Florence Dollase.

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F#12

VISIT WITH FLORENCE DOLLASE

By Marilla E. Fuge

421 Memorial Drive, Fort Atkinson, WI.
October 11, 1994

Florence had previously given information re. her long friendship with Lorine Niedecker to the Niedecker Collection Committee, but no written records were ever recorded at the D.F.P. Library.

Florence started working as a secretary at Hoards Publishing in 1925. She served the Editor, A.J. Glover, until 1941 when she then became Mr. W.M. Hoard's Secretary until he died in 1972; she then served as secretary to Mr. W.M. Knox until 1975 when she retired.

During her years at Hoards she remembers that Lorine came to work as a proof reader under the direction of Cora Lohmeier who did not have any patience with Lorine's slow work and was most disagreeable. (This confirms Ida Langholff's report.)

When Florence and Lorine were ready for seventh grade (1917) they became neighbors. Florence lived on the corner of Sherman Ave. and Jackson Sts. (#125 Jackson) while Lorine stayed with the Charles and Barbara Bowens who lived at 506 Riverside Dr. (At the corner of the Robert St. Bridge.) The two girls walked to school together - going to the High School Bldg. which then housed both seventh and eighth grades as well as the four years of high school. Florence does not recall for sure if Lorine then continued to stay with the Bowens when she reached high school days. Florence also stated that she believed Mr. Bowen was a Blacksmith and that possibly, his mother had helped run the old Bowen Hotel which stood on Main St. where the Municipal Bldg. now stands; she remembers the older lady who was always in the hotel.

Florence recalled that in seventh or eighth grade homeec class, she and Lorine were cooking partners. One day they prepared rice in a double-boiler; the next day they mixed a 1/2 portion of muffin mix for "Rice Muffins". but Lorine inadvertently put a full measure of sugar in their mix so at day's end, they had the sweetest, best muffins of the whole class.

In connection with "Reading the Rock River as Lorine knew it" Florence added the information that where one now sees the City Parking Lot and Boat ramp across from Lorman Bic. Park, there once stood the paint Shop Bldg. for the Northwestern Chair and Wagon Factory. Florence states that her Grandfather Dollase came to Fort in about 1887 and went to work in the NoW. Chair Co. paint shop until he retired in about 1900. She states that the paint shop Bldg burned down on Jan. 5, 1906 and reports are that the fire was so large and hot that the Janesville STEAMER was called to help the local firemen.

Florence's father (B. 1878) started work in the North.W. Chair and Wagon Mfg. Co as soon as he graduated from German grade school (St. Paul's) in about 1891 and was in charge of the Blacksmith Shop until the bldgs. were sold to the James Mfg. Co. (Plant Two.)

Florence also states that the little restored office Bldg. still standing on Sherman St. at the R.R. Tracks was originally built by the Northwestern R.R. (1859) as a residence for its section foreman - a family by the name of PROVENZANO. (One son of that family, by the name of 'Felix', later moved to Cambridge and ran a grocery store located at the place where HWYS 12 and 18 meet.) Later, another family resided here as well.

The DEMOCRAT NEWSPAPER was also published in this building.

VISIT WITH FLORENCE DOLLASE

By Marilla Fuge

October 24, 1994

During our last visit Florence had wondered about the Bowen family. Mrs. Fuge brought the following information with her:

Charles Bowen was B. 1859 and D. 1941 in Watertown. He had married Barbara Schlichmeier.

The old Bowen Hotel was also known as the Phoenix Hotel. The same building also housed the city offices before the Municipal Bldg. was built. (1929).

Further information re. the Northwester Wagon and Chair Co. (where Florence's Grandfather and father had been employed) included:

The N.W. Chair Co. came from Hebron, WI. where its plant had burned down in 1866.

The N.W. Bldgs. in Fort were purchased by the James Co. in 1923 for their 'PLANT Two'.

Florence reported that Lorine's grade school years were as follows:

First Grade: Blackhawk School in country at junction of Hwy. 106 and C. Trk J

Second-fourth: "Old" Barry School on Robert St.

Fifth-Sixth: Caswell Sch. (Teacher was Mary McNeel (Dau. of School Supt. who progressed with her classes.)

Seventh-eighth: High School (Built 1911) This is when Florence and Lorine would walk to school together.

* Florence also read off a list of girl classmates who went on to college or teacher normal schools or nurses training (about 10)

Florence also said she had a grade school picture of Lorine and when she could find it she would give it to us.

* Lorine's classmates of 1922 who went on to school:

Charlotte Hagemann - Oberlin

Harriett Vance - Beloit and Boston Conservancy of Music.

Harriett Bachus - Whitewater

Mary Caswell - Nat'l. Kindergarten, Chicago.

Grace Crossfield - Lawrence

Esther Bacon - Rochester, N.Y. Sch. of nursing

Esther Pritzlaff - Presbyterian Hosp. Nursing, Chicago

Elizabeth Hoard - An Eastern Womens College

Anna Ramsey - Chicago for nursing

Lorine Niedecker's note to Florence Dollase
as written in Florence's 1922 TCHOGEERAH: - June, 1922:

Dear Florence,

Here is an old schoolmate - the words used in the most literal meaning - we came up from the depths together, so to speak. And I planned on Whitewater - I am not planning for Beloit - so maybe that will turn out. Hope you don't type all the rest of your life, but hope you get a good position and enjoy pounding those "rattlesome" keys. Goodbye and good luck. Write to me next year.

LFN

rec'd. 10.24.94

See F.A.H.S. Tchogeerah Box in cabinet.

4#12

INTERVIEW WITH:

FLORENCE DOLLASE
421 Memorial Dr.,
F.A.

By: Marilla Fuge
Feb. 17, 1996

At this visit, Florence reviewed all the Niedecker photos which had not been identified.

One photo of Hoards' Picnic (The Printers' Picnic) held at The Fountain House (Circa: 1918) was reviewed and identification made for as many as Florence recognized.

Florence remarked that these Printers' Picnics were sponsored by Hoards, but that all area Printers were invited.

Not too many individual identifications were made, but the visit aroused many long-ago memories for Florence.

VISIT WITH FLORENCE DOLLASE

By Marilla E. Fuge

January 10, 1996

At the time of this visit Florence stated that she really didn't have much more information to recall concerning Lorine, because their ways parted after grade school.

True, they attended High School together, but their interest in learning was different; Florence sought a business orientation while Lorine enjoyed literature and the debate team.

When the time came for them to both be employed at Hoard's, they saw each other, but were busy in different departments and at different levels. (Florence - secretary to Mr. Wm. Hoard and Lorine - a proof-reader under Cora Lohmeier.) (1944-1950.)

Lorine, being a quiet and withdrawn person, remained alone with her proof-reading.

Florence recalled that she often thinks of her friend as she appeared at work - "When it was cold she often kept her hat and boots on - along with her scarf - as she walked back and forth between the proof-reading room and her desk."

(No doubt Lorine was cold as she often walked to Hoard's from her Blackhawk Island home.)

VISIT

With Florence Dollase, 421 Memorial Dr., Fort Atkinson, Wi.
Jan 10, 1998 and Marilla Fuge of the D.F.P.L. Niedecker Comm.
as they reviewed the Deed of Gifts as given the Niedecker
Collection by Florence.

During this meeting Florence reminisced quite freely as we
reviewed the gifts. In one of the notes ~~Lorine~~ Lorine wonders where
Miss Lieberman might be and if, perhaps, she would like a copy
of New Goose too. To this, Florence wondered WHY Lorine would
want to give a copy to Miss Lieberman????.

Also, as to L's marrying Frank H. WHY??? - she, L., wasn't a
housekeeper! She NEVER liked to cook, etc. Was it because Frank
lived on the farm with his folks and when his ~~father~~ father died, they
needed some one to keep house? (Florence was quite adamant in
these remarks and she repeated it and wondered WHY?

When Cora Lohmeier's name was read (on note ~~sent to her~~ re.
Jane Knox's serious illness), Florence mentioned that it wasn't
that Cora ~~did not~~ like Lorine, it was because she couldn't tolerate
the way Lorine sat at her desk all wrapped up in a scarf, her
hat on and her boots on while working. (NOT proper attire for
one working in the stenographic dept.!) (Cora's DEPT!)

Florence remarked that she still had a photo of Lorine which
she wished to give the library - if and when she could find it.

* P.3 - of L's Aug. 4, 1969 letter to Florence - See
ENV. #3
in cabinet.

N.B. Frank's mother, Rosina (Schmidt)

B. 11.5.1877

D. 7.10.1952

(L. & F. divorced in 1949)

Frank's father, Frederick, B. _____

D. 1929

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Florence Dollase's Recollections of Lorine Niedecker

. . . a conversation with Maxine Meyer

When Lorine was in early grade school, she lived on Riverside Drive in a house owned by her father, Henry. Florence remembers attending a birthday party for Lorine in that house.

At that time, Henry Niedecker owned a business. It may have been an implement business which was not successful, and the Niedecker family moved back to Blackhawk Island where Henry became a fisherman.

Florence attended the 4th Ward grade school on Robert Street. Lorine also attended that school while living on Riverside Drive. Later, the school building was used as a vocational school. Following that, the building was demolished and a Senior Citizens' Center was built on that site.

Lorine attended 7th and 8th grades in Fort Atkinson. Those grades were part of the high school. Florence and Lorine were not in the same classes.

During that time, Lorine stayed with the Bowen family who lived on the corner of Riverside Drive and Robert Street. Florence lived nearby, and they walked to school together. Florence recalls Lorine sitting in the bay window watching for her to come by.

May 1996

MM

F#12

VISIT

August 11, 1999

Marilla Fuge visited with Florence Dollase as re. any memories Florence might recall re. Lorine's Mother, Daisy.

on viewing photo of Daisy with her parents taken in 1900
(Photo #3 and Ref.#3 in Gottfried's Genealogy records.)

She exclaimed*"I see Lorine in this photo of her Mother!"

Three photos from the Roub Collection of Daisy as a young lady were viewed. (Circa 1900) and a photo of Lorine and her parents taken on July 26, 1913.

Florence remembers going to a Birthday party for Lorine when she (Lorine) was six yrs. old and was living in town on River-side Drive. However, she has no memories of Daisy, other than she was Very Tall!
Florence stated that in all the years she and Lorine were school chums, she does not recall any comments or feelings expressed by Lorine re, her Mother.

Florence also stated that she has no memories of having ever visited the Niedeckers on BlackHawk Isl. (After High School Days were over, the two friends saw little of each other.)

Florence stated that she was sorry to be of such little help, but she enjoyed the reminiscing.

However, she wished to say that she often wondered how Lorine managed to succeed so well in the poetry field when, as young friends, Florence found Lorine vague, ill-responsive and "off in another world" when they had a chance to visit with each other.

January 31, 1999

VISIT

Marilla Fuge visited with Florence Dollase giving her a copy of the 1998 Annual Report re. the Niedecker Collection housed at the Library. 1998 was the year in which Florence gave much of her Niedecker memorabilia to the Collection.

During this visit, Florence reminisced a bit about knowing Lorine and her family. She stated that she had two uncles, Art and Harry Dollase, who were trappers in the early 1900s in the area north of Lake Koshkonong and who ~~knew~~ Niedecker very well. She especially remembers that her Uncle Art Never had a kind word re. Henry.

As regarding school days, Florence stated that there were two distinct "clicks" of girls in her class. These groups were divided as to the Upper Class and the Lower Class, depending on the wealth or occupation of the fathers.

Upper Class		Lower Class	
Harriet Westphal	Fa. Merchant	Mary Will	Fa. Shop worker
Honor student		Declamatory	
Beloit & Boston	Sch, Musc.	Florence Dollase	Fa. Shop
Vivian Rankin	Fa. Pion. Fam.	Honor student	
Oberlin. (Not friendly)		Juanita Schreiner	Fa. Fireman & Chef
Hortense Deahl	Fa. Haumerson's	Honor student	
Lawrence Coll,	Hardware	Anna Ramsey	Fa. ?
Isabelle Bennet	Fa. EYE Doctor	Declamatory	
Honor student		Nursing School	
Downer Coll.		Katheryn Kahl	Fa. ?
Jeanette Roper	Fa. (Step) Geo.	Honor student	
Pioneer Fam.	Caswell	Whitewater Normal	
Helen Simons	Fa. ?	Leora Hake	Fa. ?
Honor Student		Honor Student	
Valedictorian		Whitewater Norm.	
Debate; friendly	- PA. Women's Coll.	Lorine Niedecker	Fa. Builder/Fisherman
		Honor Student.	
		Debate	
		Beloit.	

It was on this visit that Florence gave the Niedecker Collection her copy of the 1922 Tchogeerrah ✓ in which Lorine wrote a Good Bye note to Florence. This year-book and a copy of Lorine's poem are filed in the D.F.P.L. Collection cabinet.