Memorial Resolution for Mary Bertha Birr

Mary Bertha Birr, a Campus School supervising teacher from 1920 to 1949 when she retired at the age of seventy, gave twenty-nine years of dedicated, distinguished service to the education of teachers at this institution, known as Milwaukee Normal School before it became Milwaukee State Teachers College. To student teachers under her supervision and direction and to her colleagues she was a person with many professional interests, intensely concerned with the welfare of children and with the improvement of teaching.

Miss Birr died on December 27, 1970, at the age of ninety-one. Her teaching career spanned forty-nine years. During the course of this period which began in 1900, her teaching encompassed rural, village, and city schools where she served as a teacher, then as principal of the Oshkosh Normal Training School, and supervisor of the Oconto County Normal School. That she was interested in people was also reflected in her years of service as a Sunday school teacher and superintendent. Miss Birr, who was an active member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, was a founder of the Wisconsin Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society of women in education.

Miss Birr studied at Oshkosh Normal and received her Bachelor's and master's degrees at Teachers College, Columbia University where she studied under Dewey, Kilpatrick, Watson, Bonser, Gates, Mossman, and others. A member of the Cooperative League of America, she travelled extensively. For those who knew her, it can be said that Mary Bertha Birr was a selfless, thoughtful person who did make a difference in the society in which she lived.

Lura Carrithers
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