

MRS. MABEL BELL



Portrait of a Lovely Lady

BY ADA CROGMAN FRANKLIN

Too often when we are involved in our immediate and personal affairs, some very interesting things and people are, escape our notice. Such is true of the person about whom I am writing this sketch.

Through a friend, Mrs. Lora J. Haynes, I was given the privilege of meeting this person. One day she said to me, "I want you to drive to Weston, Mo., with me to meet a very fine and unusual person. I gladly went and was taken to the home of Mrs. Mabel Bell who recently retired from teaching school after a period of 39 years.

When the door opened, a striking personality greeted us. It was Mrs. Bell. She radiated so much love and hospitality that I felt I had known her always. She was still expressing joy and happiness over a surprise party that had been given her by friends and old pupils on the eve of her retirement.

Surprised By Friends

It seems that she had planned a small program for her pupils on which her last day of school, but to her great surprise a group of friends and children came from Kansas City to express their appreciation and love for the service she had been to them and to the community of Weston, Mo.

Fifty-eight happy people crowded the little schoolhouse and a pleasant time was spent in singing and hearing recitations by students. A group of four little girls came from Kansas City and sang spirituals dedicated to Mrs. Bell. There was one pupil to graduate from the eighth grade and he was presented his diploma by a former mayor, George Rumpel of Weston. Teachers of the Weston high school and a purse of \$44 toward the purchase of a television set. A large number of telegrams and messages came from former pupils, teachers and friends. What a fitting expression for a life of great service.

Loved Her Work

Mrs. Bell loved her work as a

reached out into the community and beyond the community. During her period of teaching, Mrs. Bell instructed 193 pupils, 95 of whom completed the eighth grade. All have done well, serving in various fields, some as teachers, others as train porters, Fat still others in the U. S. Armed Forces. One of Mrs. Bell's former pupils owns a poultry ranch in and Salt Lake City, one is a secretary. He to a physician at General hospital No. 2 in Kansas City and another manages her own ladies' ready-to-wear shop. Many have completed college courses.

Whatever Mrs. Bell attempted, she held to the highest standards and her one desire was that her pupils would measure up in whatever they attempted to do. She was greatly disturbed over the poor part English used by the children and put forth every effort in school and out of school to see that they improved their speech.

Seed Bears Fruit

Evidently, her efforts met success. One of her graduates, John Bell, completed high school in news Kansas City and won a scholarship to the University of Kansas where he majored in English. He taught English at Langston university in Langston, Okla.

Much of the seed which Mrs. Bell sowed fell on fertile soil and has borne fruit. I found Mrs. Bell to be a very modest person, not wanting to talk much about her- self. What a challenge to give teachers of today! A challenge to the class- ed number of telegrams and mes-

I always think that behind any worthwhile person there has been an incentive and inspiration to lead them on. I understand that two of our very fine women in B. I

the often heard my father (who was a professor of Latin and Greek for 37 years in a Methodist college) next say that he felt that anyone who he taught and did not love his work ear-committed a great sin. Myr Mrs. Bell was not only a teacher Her interest and activities were not confined to the classroom but



Fannie M. Jones, daughter of Sr. Longview, Texas, became the son of Mrs. Lillie D. Willis of Ft. at the home of the bride's par- ated at the ceremony.

teachers, our dear friend Mrs. Jones, and Shannon, replete with culture, refinement and sweetness, was her teacher in grade school. The other one, our own Mrs. Corne Patrick, a stalwart, brilliant character, was her teacher in high school.

Time For Herself Now

Mrs. Bell, although you have retired from the active profession of teaching, I know that your influence is still being felt in Weston. Now, you will have time to do some things for yourself that you were not able to do while teaching. As you look back upon your years of service, there must come to you a great sense of satisfaction that you were able to touch, help mold and inspire so many young lives.

May the remainder of your life be filled with joys well earned and deserved. "They live forever who live for others."

STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Rubber carpets are new B. Y. They're inexpensive, they come in good-looking colors—and a soapy Hiel non will keep them clean as a pin. Individual tread covers step and riser, and when the job is installed it looks as if you have fine carpeting.