



**Drinking Fountain at Jefferson School in Memory of Miss Lucy Cull**

Four Jefferson school students line up behind one of their schoolmates, waiting to get a drink from the fountain dedicated Wednesday in honor of Miss Lucy Cull, former principal and teacher at Jefferson. (Daily Sentinel-Standard Photo.)

*Honor Lucy Cull At  
Jefferson Services  
May 31-1950*

The Lucy Cull Memorial fountain which last fall was installed in back of Jefferson school was informally dedicated Wednesday before a large group of school children and adults in the gymnasium of Jefferson school.

Dedication of the memorial marked the success of efforts on the parts of those who contributed time and money so that the memorial might be erected.

After an invocation by Dr. J. Lee Lewis, pastor of the First Baptist church of Ionia, Kathryn Pierson, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Leon Pierson, who attended the first grade during the last year Miss Cull taught at Jefferson, delivered the opening tribute.

#### Judge Smith Speaks

Judge of Probate Geer H. Smith, also a former pupil of Miss Cull, spoke, recalling his association with Miss Cull in 1914 when he attended first grade at the old Central school on Union street. Judge Smith remembered that Miss Cull was a friend to every boy and girl, fortunate as well as unfortunate, and that he was "very happy to take part in this fitting ceremony to an honored woman."

Miss Martha Roberts, an eleventh grade student at Ionia high school, outlined her acquaintance with the former teacher commenting on her ability to cope with any

situation. Miss Roberts assisted Miss Cull when she had full charge of the school children at noon.

Final tribute was given by Supt. A. A. Rather, who perhaps has had the longest association with Miss Cull. While Miss Cull was full of fun and could take as well as give a good joke, he said that he never knew her to indulge in frivolity at the expense of another. Attributing her success with children to the fact that they sensed the presence of a fine lady and acted accordingly, Supt. Rather continued "and then, too, she never referred to them as 'kids' — it was always 'little ladies and gentlemen.' "

#### Refreshed Children

He declared that as a principal, Miss Cull was not concerned with administrative duties as much as she was interested in knowing and understanding people and as a result she became a fine administrator. Describing the ceremony as a dedication from the past to the future, he concluded: "Hoping the fountain refreshes you children as Miss Cull herself refreshed spiritually the many who knew her."

The idea for a memorial for Miss Cull materialized during the P. T. A. presidency of Mrs Bradford Constance who appointed a committee composed of Mrs Raymond Barnes, chairman, Mrs Dohaid Moore, Mrs DeForest Piper,

Mrs Earl Graham, Mrs Foster Huber and Mrs Glen Piper, to discuss methods for raising the necessary funds. Supt. Rather and Principal Prentice as well as each P. T. A. president since the term of Mrs Constance, by virtue of their offices automatically became members of the committee.

The entire cost of the fountain with the exception of \$28 which was paid by the public and friends of Miss Cull. A fund of \$90 was collected by Mrs Graham from teachers who had worked with Miss Cull, and when the fountain was decided upon was turned over to the memorial committee. Some of these contributions came from as far away as California and Texas.

#### Born in Ireland

Miss Cull was born in Ireland on Jan. 12, 1879, and began her teaching career in Saranac where she taught prior to 1910 when she came to Ionia to teach at the age of 31. A conservative estimate places the number of children instructed by her at 2,000 during the more than a quarter of a century that she taught. She never taught any grade but the first.

In addition to the speakers present at the ceremony was Harry Myers, Ionia coroner, who contacted the company from whom the monument was purchased and selected the design. Lynn Morris and

Andrew Risser, who contributed the labor, cement work, plumbing and bubbler, were invited to the ceremony but were unable to attend.

At the close of the ceremony, Supt. Rather led the group in singing "America". The children filed to their rooms to accompaniment of the "Marine Hymn" played by Mrs Fred Christopher, Ionia music teacher.