

## Report Card Memories

*By Donna Bishop*

It is a sad story I tell of the lost memories of a long gone childhood. I really have few memories of being a child. You see I have always been very grown up for my age, or so my mother told me. In fact the memories I have of long ago have been told to me by others. I can't recall that they are my own. I do have among my keepsakes two report cards dated 1946-1947 and 1947-1948. Now I don't know that those dates had any particular meaning to me but they were among my mother's things when she died.

My memory is at least average but when a child goes to school in four states over their first two years of schooling it is a bit mind boggling. I think I entered first grade in Alliance, Nebraska. As a shy, quiet child I probably had problems finding my classroom and making friends. I have no memory of that experience.

The first report card is from Rapid City, South Dakota showing I finished the second semester and was promoted to second grade. Again I have no memory but the report card is signed by teacher Alma Leary stating I was a satisfactory student in Oral Language Mastery, Attention, Retention, Muscular Coordination, Social Adjustment, Spelling and Deportment. I did get a satisfactory minus in Interest in Reading.

We moved to Greeley, Colorado that summer and I now understand why my mother enrolled me in summer school for reading. I have no memory of the classroom but do remember the fear I struggled with to walk along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to an underground pedestrian tunnel that led to Greeley Teacher's College. I started second grade in Greeley for 22 days and finished second grade in Casper, Wyoming. I do have a memory of the outside of Grant School but no memory of the classroom, the teacher or my classmates.

The second report card is signed by teacher Sue Brown Anderson. The teacher made the following comments about me: Donna Sue is a sweet child. Her reading score on the test was above average. She is improving in her oral reading. All her other work shows progress. She gets along well with other children. Mrs. Anderson's second report said, "Donna Sue is always dependable and industrious. She has made many friends among the children."

One memory I do have is playing tag during recess. Of course in my memory I was always the fastest runner and rarely was tagged to be "it".