

TILTON 6/6/01

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Thank you very much

It is a pleasure to be here in Tilton It was not unknown to me when I was a teenager in Laconia High School, from which I graduated in 1927.

Sometimes the Tilton School needed partners for the boys when there were special occasions requiring a dance. Boys who did not have girls back in their home town to invite would be supplied partners from our school

Furthermore I was especially pleased to know that I would be seeing some of the Ahlgren family again. My husband and I and our two children lived for many years in the upstairs of the two apartment house, owned by Clarence Ahlgrin's mother. There was great excitement when Clarence courted Ellen and even more when they were married. Ellen owned a beautiful dog, ^{Irish setter} named Ginger who did not fit into this ^{new} equation and Ellen gave her to my family. The second present she gave ^{us} ~~me~~, was a big one, for when young daughter, Betty, watched from our upstairs window on a Sunday morning, the Ahlgren station ^{wagon} arrive and five beautifully dressed, handsome children tumble ~~come~~ out of the car to visit Grandma Ahldren before

going on to church, Betty would say, "Some day I want a family just like that." So I have five grandchildren that Betty produced, two boys and three girls, just like the Ahlgrens. Betty said later, that she should have asked Ellen what it was like getting those five ready for church, and she might have limited her production.

It is wonderful what you have accomplished here, building this beautiful wing to your library. There are 50,000 ^{new} books printed each year, and another grandchild of mine, having become an accomplished reader at eight years, ^{has} announced to ^{me} that he intended to read every book that was ever written. A noble idea, but an impossible feat, ^{though} ~~but~~ his spirit is in the right place. With television and computers in competition today, it takes a concentrated effort on the part of teachers and parents to make sure the children have not pushed reading too far in the background.

I tell all the high school and University boys and girls ~~I talk to~~ that to ^{stay} ~~be~~ well educated they must read a paper every day, at least the front page, the editorial page with its editorial and letters to the editor, to see what people are thinking and the op=ed page to see what the pundits are saying. This advise goes for adults, as well, and I would add to ~~that~~ ^{the adults} current books

Good News

that keep one up to what is going on in the world in depth, both fictionally and non-fictionally. Look at the latest books to see what is going on. So that you will not wake up one morning unaware that you are living in an oligarchy and that your Democracy has slipped away while you were sleeping.

I lived in a small town of 1400, paid my taxes and voted, and thought I was a good citizen. But it isn't enough, to be a good citizen you must look beyond yourself, your family, your neighbors, to the world beyond.

But I realized over elections were being sold under us. Money was the criteria to your Country
 There is a danger of corporations and big monied interests taking over your small city turning it into a colony for their benefit, their mega stores shutting down the small business stores. You must be vigilant to make sure this does not happen to your community.

How wonderful it is to have access to all this knowledge, without worrying about a price of admission. Anyone, rich or poor, white, black or brown, old or young are all welcome in the library;. It takes a library to make a town, for it is the place for all to become a part of the community. I hope you will use it often, and support it well.