

March 21, 1997

Dear Shanelle,

Thank you for asking me to write and tell you about my grade school days when I was your age, You have such beautiful handwriting I'm wondering if you will be an artist when you grow up. You are blessed to have your mom as your activity leader. I know she would have some fun things for you to do and learn. Your mom is the most thoughtful person I've ever known. and your dad is the most kind person I've ever known. Your dad was very smart to ask your mom to marry him. I know the reason your mom fell in love with your dad was because of his kindness, Shanelle, did you know that when you are kind the Holy Ghost always wants to be with you? I've noticed that you are both thoughtful and kind to everyone. Maybe you were the smart one to pick Kim and Joan for your mom and dad,

6 miles
I went to grade school; in Wapello, Idaho. Wapello is north of Blackfoot, Idaho. It was a small school surrounded by farms. When I started first grade there was eight grades in the school. Two grades to each room and *four* rooms. My teachers were Jane Marlow first and second grade. Mary Williams third and fourth, Mary Felt fifth grade and Mae Walker sixth grade. Mary Miller was seventh and eight grade teacher. I was scared of Mrs. Miller. one day when I was coming from the bathroom some "big" kids were running in the hall. She made all of us go to her room and write 200 hundred times "I will not run in the hall." She wrote the sentence on the board and I had to raise my hand and tell her I did not know how to write "longhand" I just knew how to print, SCAREEEEEEE. I was happy when they decided to change one of the classrooms to a lunch room and Mrs. Miller no longer taught at Wapello, After she left all seventh and eight grade children went to Blackfoot to Junior High. When the lunch room was built my teacher Mrs. *Marlow* had us all bring some different ingredients from home and we made potato soup. It was wonderful to have something besides cheese sandwiches everyday. Later my mom Isolene cooked at the school for twenty-nine years. I would get on the bus at eight o' clock and arrive home from school at four twenty, Before school I would feed the chickens and water

and feed the calves, After school I would feed and water the chickens again and gather the eggs. I would also go get the cows from the pasture for my dad to milk. when I was eleven and twelve I would start the milking for my dad. He worked at the grain mill in Blackfoot and would not get home until six-thirty each night and I would have four or five cows milked by the time he got home. I also had one YUCKEEEEEE job I did not like to do and that was wash the eggs after you gathered them. Silly chickens would always poop on the eggs and the eggs needed to be clean before you used them. My mom always took eggs to Blackfoot to the grocery stores so the town people would have eggs to buy.

We usually had three boys and three boys in our grade at school. Friday was primary day and we got out of school and hour early to run over to the church for primary. Then we had to run back to the school after primary so we could catch the bus to go home. The other two girls in my class Bonnie Poulson and Pattiy Akers were not members of our church but they came to primary with me anyway.

Every year at school we had a Christmas program. We would practice and practice the nativity story, learn more Christmas carols and make costumes. the program was always held at the church house. One year I was a ballet dancer, After the program Santa always came and gave us a sack of peanuts and candy.

We had a huge playground at school with swings and a merry-go-round. We played softball, pump, pump pull-away and red rover. We had a forest to play in. It was really just a "stand" of about thirty cottonwood trees but it was an ideal place to play house and of course the boys always built forts. When I started first grade we always had to wear a dress and to keep my legs warm we wore awful looking long brown socks that came to you thigh, My friends Bonnie and Patty had long whit socks, but I could only wear my white socks to church. I had two pair of brown socks and one pair of white socks.

Shanelle, do you remember the little red chair I have at my house? I sat on that chair for reading time in the first and second grade. All of the stories in our books were about Dick, Jane , Sally a dog named Spot and a kitten named Puff. Later grades our books had fairy tales and lots of bible stories, We learned to spell arithmetic by saying " A

rich Irishman thought he might eat toast in cream." Geography was "George Elliot's old grandmother rode a pig home yesterday." Our teacher always drilled us on our times table. We would have to stand in front of the class and repeat then everyday. In fifth and sixth grade we always danced on Friday. We would do the Hokey Pokey Oh, Johnny and we also learned to square dance, My dad Erwin was our teacher, Our group would perform at the state fair and other places we were invited to dance. We always made May baskets for May first. We made them out of construction paper cutting out flowers and coloring them to make them beautiful. We would take them home and hang them on doorknob to show our parents how much we loved them. Sometimes I would hang my basket on my grandma Margretha Allen's doorknob. she was always so surprised and would go around all day asking everyone where the beautiful basket came from. I always thought school was fun and I still love to read.

Oh, when I was you age in Primary I was a Lark, (a bird like meadowlark.) There was three girls classes in Primary. Lark, Bluebird and Seagull. I think being a Merriemiss sound more fun then being a bird. Don't you?

A BIG GRANDMA DARLENE HUG