

This handwritten poem was submitted to the Town of Homer historian by his Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Betty Hudson, on August 7<sup>th</sup>. She had received a copy of the poem from Mrs. Betty St. Peter of Scott. The author, Miss Judge, was a former teacher at the Homer Central Elementary School on the Green when it housed grades K through 6. The "night of the fire" refers to the school fire in the winter of 1945.

To Homer Academy Feb. 1961  
By Marguerite Judge

It was an old, old building  
And I, just a teacher there.  
But the times we had together  
Will remain in my heart fore'er.

It has been fun to count each moment  
Of each day of each passing year  
For little folks bring such gladness  
As they greet you when coming near.

Well do I remember each morning  
As we said our morning prayer,  
Our pledge of allegiance, our anthem,  
And "God Bless America All."

We watched the birds nest together  
As we sat near the window close by  
And saw the little ones feeding  
And the mother bird flew constantly by.

Yes, each day brings fond memories  
For well do I recall  
When Ireen passed to a high grade  
And said, "Save my seat for 'Chuck' in the fall."

You, too, Roy were a little fellow  
When you passed to a higher grade  
But as an Army Sergeant  
You came to visit us back in that room.

I can even remember the children  
After they passed to a higher grade  
Would come back often to that window  
And watch the birds flying by.

Would you believe it, if I tell you  
That the same tree the robins loved so  
And the room that had such fond memories  
Went together the night of the fire.

The thought I now want to leave you  
Is to know how a teacher feels.  
She has seen fine men and women  
Grow fine from things learned in that room.

Storms may ravage great countries and buildings,  
Fires wipe out years of toil,  
But pupils can grow and make great leaders,  
And a teacher's work can live on.

So perhaps from that room in that building  
Whose memories are left,  
Future leaders in Homer will bring us  
Records of work to live on.