Mary Palmer Garden

University of Maine at Farmington

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Found on Mary Palmer's Bulletin Board

"Touching Shoulders"

There's a comforting thought at the close of the day
When I'm weary, and lonely and sad —
That sort of grips hold of my crusty old heart,
And bids it be merry and glad,
It gets in my soul and it draws out the blues
And finally thrills through and through —
It is just a sweet memory that chants the refrain
"I'm glad I touched shoulders with you."

Did you know you were brave? Did you know you were strong?
Did you know there was one leaning hard?
Did you know that I waited and listened and prayed,
And was cheered by your simplest word?
Did you know that I longed for the smile on your face,
For the sound of your voice ringing true?
Did you know I grew stronger and better, because I merely touched shoulders with you?

I am glad that I live — that I battle and strive
For the place which I know I must fill;
I am thankful for sorrows — I'll meet with a grin
What fortune may send — good or ill.
I may not have wealth, and I may not be great,
But I know I shall always be true,
For I have in my life that courage you gave,
When once I touched shoulders with you.

(Author Unknown)

A Living Tribute
to the
Role of Home Economics
at the
University of Maine at Farmington
Mary Palmer, who taught home economics from 1924 to 1929, was remembered by her students for her lovely smile, friendliness, and dedication. As one student recalled, “What a wonderful time she had making our garden.” Another, “Her love of the garden proved her great love of nature and all that was beautiful.”

After her untimely death the garden was dedicated to her memory in 1935.

The recreated Mary Palmer Garden will be located between Ricker and Preble Halls. The garden’s design by Ron Jahoda of Strawberry Fields Nursery will be based upon old photographs. The arch, fence and benches will resemble those in the cover photo. The original sign and sundial will be an integral part of the garden. Planters and a brick walk to make the area handicapped accessible will be new features.

Many opportunities exist for your help with this project. Please study the attached tear sheet and mail it today.