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4-20-1970

# Letter From Peggy Claflin Atkinson to Eleanor Snell, April 20, 1970

Margaret E. Claflin  
*Ursinus College*

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Mrs. Harry L. Atkinson  
5243 Brendonridge Rd.  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46226

April 20, 1970

Dear Eleanor,

I am sorry that I will be unable to attend your retirement dinner. At this time of the year Indianapolis goes into full orbit and I get enmeshed in the many activities that are important to our existence in the "500" Race city.

The experience of having you as a teacher, coach, and friend has made an indelible impression on my life. You were my first -- and really the only -- teacher who used the casual approach to teaching. How well I remember your "seminars" back in 1935 when you would half sit on the desk and encourage us to think. A good argument had its place, even if it was contrary to your own position.

Playing on your teams was a stimulating and rewarding experience. You taught us to evaluate our own abilities and our own performance realistically, feeling neither superior nor inadequate. There was never a doubt that you expected each of us at all times to give our best, whatever that might be. What a wonderful lesson to be learned for life!

But the best was yet to come . . . . when I was given the opportunity to return to Ursinus and work with you as your assistant. To be a part of your leadership philosophy was even more stimulating than playing on one of your teams.

The lessons I learned from you, Eleanor, have guided me in whatever I have done since those unforgettable days. Your aggressive spirit was always tempered with impeccable sportsmanship and your firm discipline with warm compassion. How valuable those lessons have been in raising a family in this permissive age!

I send not only my warmest affection but my continuing admiration to a respected teacher and to a cherished friend. I hope your well earned retirement will be full of happiness and that your memories of matchless success and hosts of friends will always illuminate your days.

I do hope, too, that on one of those trips to Nebraska you will stop in Indianapolis for a visit.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Clapham  
Atkinson