

March 9, 1936

Dear Miss Gilpin:

Several weeks ago I was studying the camera awards for 1935 and admired some of the pictures very much -- among them the steps at Chicken - Iga. For some reason the artist's name escaped me for some time -- suddenly "Laura Gilpin" -- wasn't that the girl -- the first girl who ever drove an automobile into Cedarvale? Of course, it must be because she was always doing the unusual things!"

Do you remember the Downes family, father, mother and two little redhaired girls who lived in Cedarvale until 1915 and then moved to Iowa and now live in Nebraska? I'm the older of the two girls, and mother, Mildred and I live in Lincoln now. We moved here in 1925 shortly after the death of my father. Isn't it queer that after all these years

we should find your name and your work. The picture is beautifully set and I like the lights, the perspective and in fact everything about it. Do you have other pictures of the same country and where can I find them? By the way the originals are to be on display for several weeks during April so the entire Downs family will see yours again.

I was in Colorado Springs last June for the International Convention of Quota Club but of course had no idea that anyone I had ever known was so close to me. I'm in the investment business and was sent as a delegate from the Lincoln Club. Mildred works at the First National Bank of Lincoln and the three of us have our own home here.

Please go on taking such beautiful pictures because it must be a fascinating kind of work. Is it a hobby or a profession with you?

Sincerely
Helen M. Downs