

interest, "I attend the Promise City Church of Christ. Grandfather Merle Prater is the pastor there."

Pausing momentarily, a shy smile appears when she adds, "You probably think I'm crazy, but my present ambition is to run in a marathon in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 26. To prepare for the race, I'm running every day."

Because I was once a distance runner, I have tremendous admiration for anyone who aspires to run that grueling distance. When I mentioned that 5th grade teacher Camille Preston had run marathons, Robin says, "I know, because Camille inquired about the race."

Before leaving her classroom, I asked her about a poster that reads, "Ten Class Rules." The rules include: "Be nice to everyone; Share; Follow directions and listen; and Don't cut in line. Robin explains, "On the first day of school the students and I set those rules."

Another poster titled "Classroom Helpers" catches my eye. Students' names are neatly printed on clothespins. Next to each name are that student's duties. They include: Line leader, Paper passer, Calendar helper, Caboose and Pledge leader. The Caboose's duties include turning out the lights. Grinning, Robin says, "Those duties are rotated so every student feels part of the team and shares in the class responsibilities."

Robin lives with sister Jill in Moravia, and she commutes to and from Putnam County. "Driving each day isn't really all that bad, Robin explains. "I spend the time listening to books recorded on CDs. That makes the time go fast."

As we were concluding the interview, Robin Prater's students were returning to class. They are a happy bunch! I hope they will soon learn a bit about their teacher from Mohawk Country. Besides raising, spoiling and showing sheep, she was a standout athlete, head of her class, and now has ambitions to run a marathon. Welcome to Midget Country, Miss Prater! And good luck in the marathon.

**By Duane Crawford  
Correspondent**

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