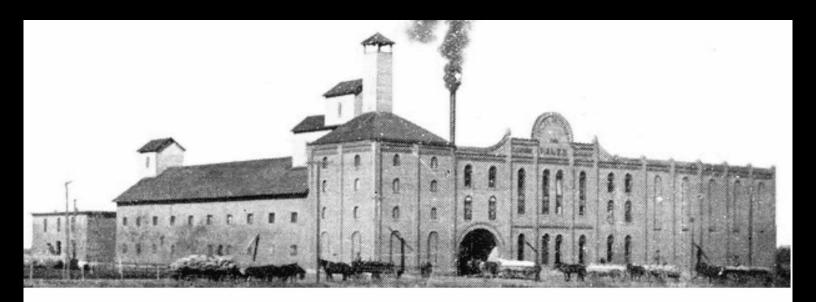


THE LEHRKIND FAMILY OF BOZEMAN, MONTANA



NE NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR

BY LAUREL SPARKS

As part of research for her upcoming residency and installation work for Tinworks Art 2023, painter and performance artist Laurel Sparks led a walking tour around Bozeman's Northeast Neighborhood. A member of the Lehrkind family, Sparks told stories for audiences members that dug into Bozeman's working-class past, exploring her family's history in the industrial neighborhood of Bozeman. The tour ended inside the historic Lehrkind Garden House and the former site of the Lehrkind Brewery.

This event was presented in partnership with The Extreme History Project and Julius Lehrkind Brewing with all proceeds benefitting The Extreme History Project.





NORTHSIDE WALKING TOUR: AUGUST 6, 2022 @ 2:30 PM

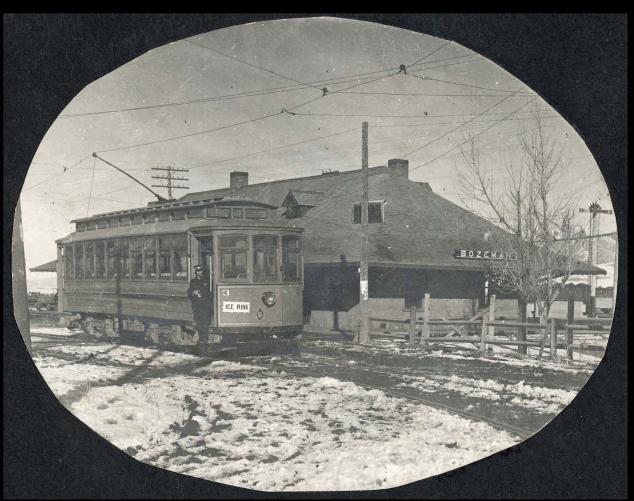
TINWORKS SITE:

I am fortunate to be invited by Tinworks Art to do a project based on the working class history of Bozeman and specifically this neighborhood. My mother Suzanne grew up here in Bozeman and the information I will share with you on this walking tour today is research-based, mostly culled from public records and interviews with family members.



We will be visiting 4 sites today:

- Former Train Depot/Park
- Brewery Grounds
- Former CocaCola plant
- Lehrkind "Mansion"





DEPOT PARK (Northern Pacific Railway):

This small northeast district known as The Bozeman Brewery Historic District reflects important aspects of Bozeman's early working class and ethnic history. This tour begins with the story of my maternal Great Great Grandfather Julius Lehrkind, referred to by my family as "Grosspapa": Julius was born on December 25, 1842 in Haspe Hagen in Nordrhein-Westfalen Germany. In Germany, after Julius's mother Bertha died, his stepmother Carolyn made living at home unpleasant for him and his siblings, so he left home to apprentice at a brewery in Schleswig Holstein. At the brewery, he was on duty 24 hours a day, opening and shutting windows to keep temperatures even, and said that if the temperatures were off he would be roused by a "big Dutch boot".

Julius was drafted by the German army to fight in a war with Denmark over Schleswig Holstein, and in protest of the war he chopped off his trigger finger so he couldn't serve. At the age of 17, Julius stowed away on a ship destined for a country beginning with the letter A. He only spoke German and didn't know whether the ship was sailing to Australia or America. He landed in New York in 1860 during the rise of the Civil War and was offered cash to enlist, but refused despite being broke. Instead he went from door to door in New York to beg for food and work. He eventually found work in a brewery in Philadelphia and, when his father died, he inherited money that he used to open Blackhawk Brewery in Davenport, Iowa in 1865, where he was joined by his younger brother Friedrich.

In Davenport, Julius and Friedrich married two Lambach sisters, Emilie and Bertha. The brothers parted ways in 1878 after nearly seven years of partnership. Fred and Bertha went to the Gulf Coast to produce rosin and turpentine, and they both died in 1892, leaving four orphaned children. Julius and Emilie had six children and began struggling financially with the Davenport brewery due to growing anti-saloon sentiments. Despite his financial setbacks, Julius adopted Fred and Bertha's four children and raised all ten equally as his own. There were 7 sons and 3 daughters. A written account recalls that when asked how he was able to become successful after taking care of ten children while he was broke, Julius answered, "Vell, I had to, didn't I, huh?"



BREWERY SITE:

In 1895, Julius bought the local Spieth and Krug Brewery at 240 E. Main. Then he had a massive, four-story brick building built in this 800 block of North Wallace Avenue and renamed it the Genuine Lager Bozeman Brewery that same year. He wanted the brewery near the Northern Pacific Railroad station and to have space to build a home next door.

It was the largest Brewing Establishment in Montana.

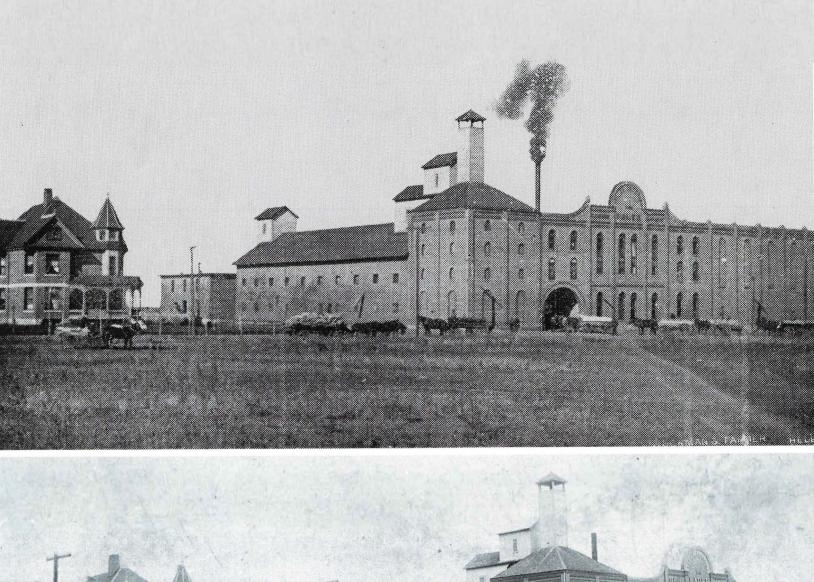
With an initial investment of \$20.000, the Genuine Lager Bozeman Brewery was state-of-the art and enjoyed growing success over a decade until Prohibition. The walls of the brewery were 18-inches thick. It had an attached malting house and three water wells were built beneath the building, one 200-feet deep. About 12,000 square feet of the brewery had cork-lined refrigeration rooms. Beer would be aged in the rooms for about six months prior to sale. Draft horses pulled wagons, in the same style as the Budweiser Clydesdales, delivering Bozeman Brewery beer to customers statewide. The Lehrkind cousins still have one of the original wagons and Robert Lehrkind of my mother's generation saved bricks for the cousins.

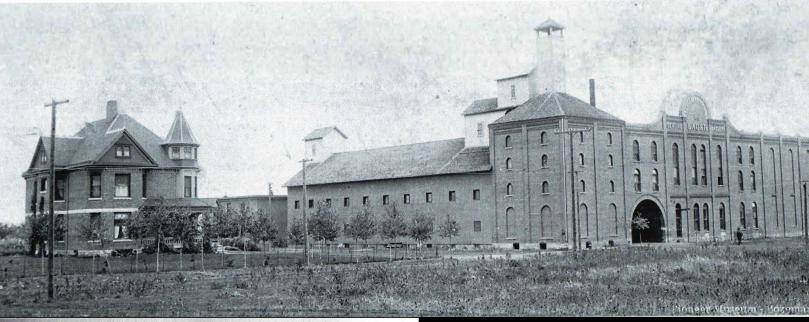
In 1895 at age 55, Julius sold the Davenport brewery and relocated to Bozeman, Montana, for the region's

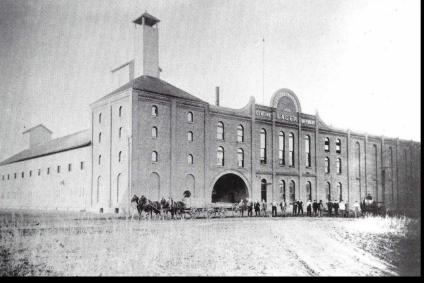
excellent water and abundant barley grown by Dutch settlers in nearby Manhattan. According to family legend, Julius got on the train going west, and every time the train would stop he'd get off and taste the water. Bozeman had the best. Upon leaving Iowa, Julius hired 3 special railroad cars to transport his large family, horses and trained brewery workers1300 miles westward to the old train depot which was on this site. [

He had a draft of \$80,000 from the Davenport brewery sale and approached a banker named Peter Koch based on his German name, only to have his deposit refused for being "liquor money".

When Julius established his business and home in Bozeman, hobos regularly arrived at the depot seeking food, shelter and work, and Julius never turned anyone away, having been similarly compromised when he arrived in America.







The brewery produced 40,000 barrels of lager a year. The building was the largest in Bozeman until construction of the Montana State University Fieldhouse in 1957. In 1919 the anti-saloon forces finally caught up with the Lehrkinds and Montana State prohibition closed the breweries down. Julius was heartbroken and 3 years later died of cancer on November 25, 1922 at the Lehrkind house. This was a month before his 80th birthday.

During Prohibition, the building became the Lehrkind Coal and Pure Ice Company, and the Lehrkind family diverted their energies to the growing soft-drink business. The family got a contract with Coca-Cola in 1914, and Carl Lehrkind, Julius son, had a one-story bottling plant constructed across the street from the brewery, which is now an arts organization called Echo Arts, where we will visit next. (Legend has it that there is an underground tunnel that connects the buildings but that has not been verified and is likely untrue).



FORMER COCA COLA PLANT

When first built, this bottling plant had the emblazoned motto on its exterior, "It's the Bozeman Water." According to my mother Suzanne, Coca Cola never tasted as good anywhere but Bozeman.13 years later, Upon the repeal of Prohibition in 1932, Julius' son Edwin revived the brewery business for a short time under the label of "Old Faithful." The business was eventually forced to close again due to competition with larger beer corporations like Budweiser.

After the brewery stopped producing beer, the building was used for a number of businesses including Haynes Photography business (Haynes family of Yellowstone Park), an ice plant, warehouse, frozen food distributor, Kessler Creamery and a music recording studio. According to MSA archives, the famous Bozeman architect Fred Willson designed upgrades to the building in the 30's and 40s. According to my mom's cousin Helen, the outside of the building was never changed but the inside must have been renovated for the new businesses.

In 2007, an out-of-state developer got permission to tear down most of the brewery building and build a residential-office project, including 39 condominiums, in its place. The company had planned to use the original brick façade as part of the new building's design. When the economy crashed in 2008 the project stalled. All that remained of the brewery building was a single crumbling, four-story brick wall held upright by steel braces, which has now been demolished. The Coca Cola bottling plant that was originally in this building moved to 1715 North Rouse Ave in 1979 and is still owned and operated by the Lehrkind family, most of whom are with us on this tour today.





LEHRKIND HOUSE ("MANSION")

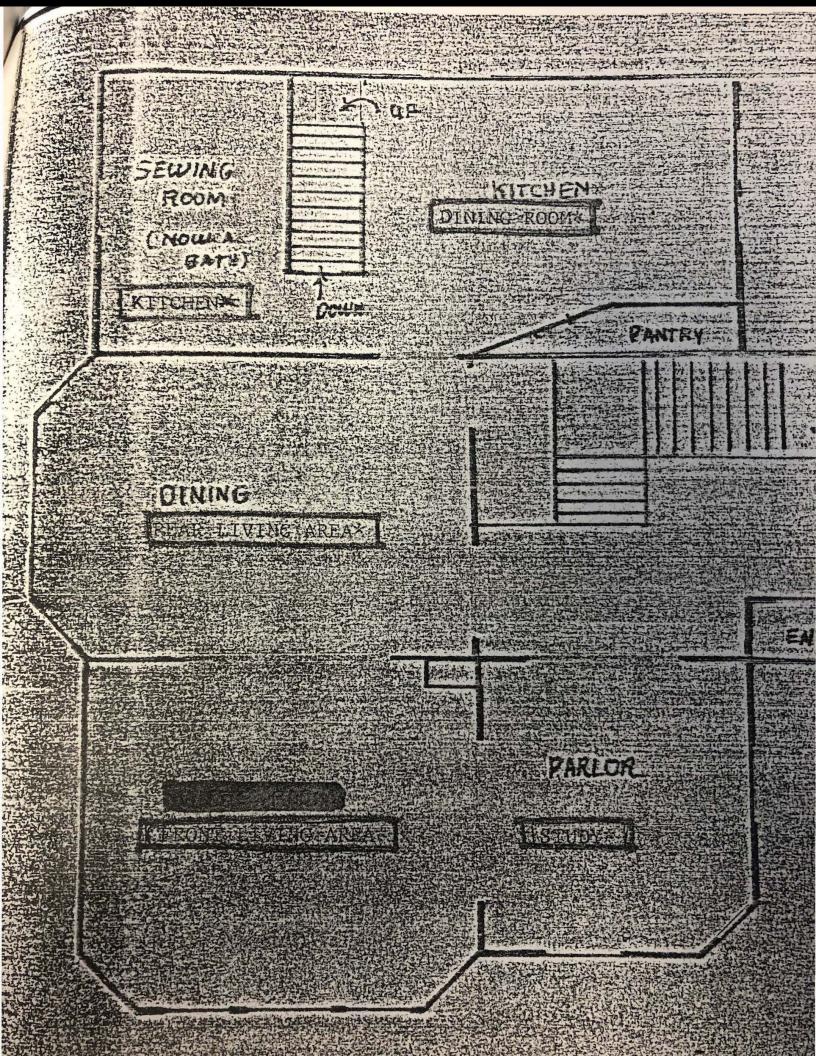
Julius built this three-story home, complete with a Queen Anne-style turret, next door to the brewery in 1897. My great great grandmother Emilie designed the house after one she admired in Davenport, Iowa.

It was built right in the middle of the industrial district, reflecting the European culture of living next to where you work, which is different from the Anglo tradition of separating home and business. The Lehrkinds likely had other reasons for building a home on the north side of Bozeman, instead of the more fashionable south side. Germans were generally discriminated against by anglo-Americans and many were jailed during WWI for criticizing the government. The house continues to stand in isolated elegance in this otherwise industrial district.



The house was electrified from the start, heated by coal, and its foundation was built on layers of sand and cork. That bed protected the house from earthquakes and allowed it to settle evenly, and as of today every window opens as smoothly as the day it was installed (the new owner Ryan can confirm or deny this claim). The floors and moldings of the house are fashioned from local Douglas fir, milled in the Springhill area. The exterior was built from bricks that, legend has it, were steeped in beer before they were fired. That might account for the bricks retaining their deep red color and good condition. However, my older cousins find this claim dubious since Julius was frugal.

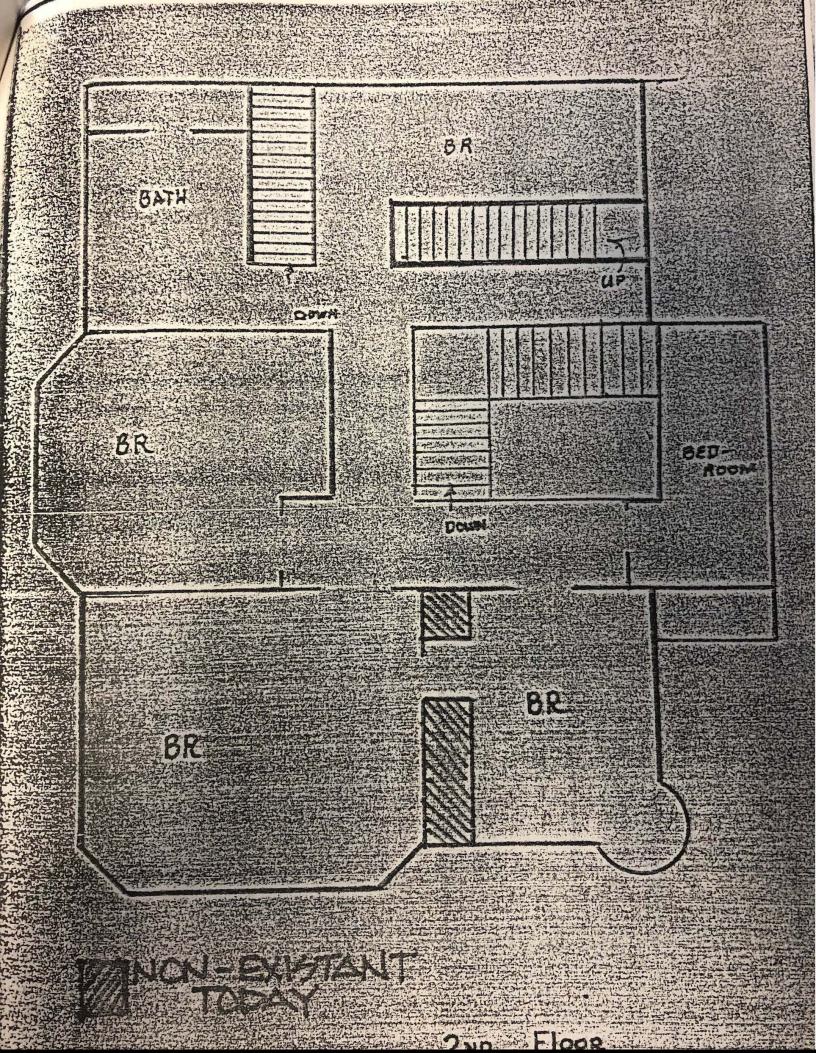
One of the unusual features about the house in 1897 was that there were built-in closets in the upstairs bedrooms when the original house was built. At that time (1880-1900) most houses had large wardrobe pieces of furniture and no walk-in closets. With the adding of bathrooms to each bedroom when it became a B&B, those closets were modified. Originally, the only room with a wardrobe piece of furniture was in the sewing room on the first floor.



The same year Julius built his house, his wife Emilie died and she was never able to live there. Her 36 year old sister Lina moved in after she died, to help take care of the children. Two years later, in 1899, Julius married Lina and together they had one child named Herman. With 11 children in the house, much of the space was given over to 10 bedrooms on the second and third floors. Initially, however, there was just one bathroom for the 13 family members and their one servant.

Over the next 10+ years, the family compound eventually grew to include homes belonging to Julius's son Edwin (one and a half-story, gable-front, Bungalow style house), and the other house belonged to his nephew Henry. Julius and his daughter Elfrieda are the only family members known to have died in the house, and there are no reports of the house being haunted.

To describe Julius, he stood about 6 feet tall and weighed about 300 pounds. He was a huge taciturn man, and we've been told there was a trapeze in his bedroom that helped him get out of bed. According to an interview with my cousin Tom Lehrkind, Julius was up at 4 or 5 in the morning and would have breakfast and go to work. Then, he would come back at 8 or 9 a.m. and have a second breakfast.



Julius spoke with a heavy German accent and is said to have lost one eye to children throwing rocks. He walked with a cane and a famous family story recalls him poking a languid cat and saying "kitty go catch a mouse" - a sentiment reflecting his staunch work ethic. Julius is now buried at Sunset Hills cemetery along with many generations of my family. A newspaper obituary about Julius states that "he loved his home and his family and in his quiet unpretentious way, he was most generous and charitable to the needy."

After Julius' death, the home was inherited by his son Carl, my great grandfather, who lived here until his death in the mid 1960s. Carl and his family had an apple orchard & Carl grew asparagus in a garden by the garage (now "carriage house" built after the house became a Bed and Breakfast).

The 3rd story of the house held all kinds of treasures during my mother's childhood: old dolls/toys/doll furniture and a Kazoo band of instruments. Each 4th of July, on Great Grandmother Helen's birthday, my mom, her siblings and cousins would line up and play instruments in a parade around the grounds. Cousin Robert recalls that his Grandpa Carl would be at the head with an American flag, and all the grandchildren would be stair stepped down in order of size. The kazoo band would march and play for Grandma Helen. Robert says most of it was just loud noise, but there might have been some attempt at a tune.

The kids were forbidden to play on the 3rd floor, but would sneak up there anyway. My mom describes the third floor as a magical place with a 'tower.'

Another magical place was Grandmother Helen's pantry which always held a batch of fresh baked chocolate cupcakes. That pantry was eventually replaced with a much needed ground floor bathroom. Another special feature is, the house is alleged to still have BB pellets in the walls. Helen came home from church and caught my great grandfather Carl and his daughter Bobby lying on the floor shooting BB's at a little mouse that was in the kitchen.

The kitchen has since moved into what was a sewing room.

Freight train hobos continued to come to the front door after Carl inherited the house. He was less welcoming than his father Julius, and started keeping the front door locked. Instead, the family used the kitchen door as the main ingress & egress.

While the furniture was changed, many of the original features were left untouched over the years. The swing on the front porch is the same swing that My mom and Helen would use. They would swing so high that the swing hit the bricks and left marks. Grandpa would appear at the window and knock to scold them.

Carl and Helen were the last Lehrkind family members to live in the house. Grandpa Carl died in 1965 and Grandma Helen moved to Hillcrest, the retirement home near the cemetery. She was losing her eyesight and could not live alone after Carl passed.



After the Lehrkind family left, the house had multiple uses including an antique shop, an apartment building, a rehearsal space for bands, and at one point, a repair station for motorcycles. In the 1980s it became a Bed and Breakfast and remained so under different owners until its most recent sale in 2021, to Ryan Mason and his family. Ryan's family have graciously opened their private home to us for this rare and special occasion.

- Laurel Sparks 2022



Lehrkind Family 1943



Right to Left: Grandmother Emilie (Millie), Uncle Keith (Rod), Mother Suzanne, Aunt Yvonne (Vonnie), Grandfather Keith (Big Daddy) ca: 1950

LEHRKIND HOUSE BLOODLINE OF 4 GENERATIONS

Julius Lehrkind - 12-25-1842

Emilie Lambach - 7-3-1849 (5)

Carl Lehrkind - 8-20-1878 (7)

Helen Hancock - 7-4-1881 (2)

Rosalie Lehrkind - 1-10-1905

Carl Lehrkind II - 9-10-1906 (8)

Gretchen Lehrkind - 1-11-1910

Emilie Lehrkind - 1-1-1915 (9)

Eloise Lehrkind - 2-21-1921 (Bobbie)

John Haddow Morrison Jr - 8-24-1933

Helen Isabel Morrison - 12-24-1937

Richard Joseph Uhlrich - 1-13-1938

Suzanne Gastineau - 2-25-1938

Carl Lehrkind III - 12-15-1938

Yvonne Gastineau - 5-13-1941

Harry Thompson Lehrkind - 10-9-1941

Keith Rodric Gastineau - 1-9-1943

Marilyn Eloise Uhlrich - 9-10-1943

Robert Lehrkind 1-19-1944

Michael M Howard - 4-19-1947

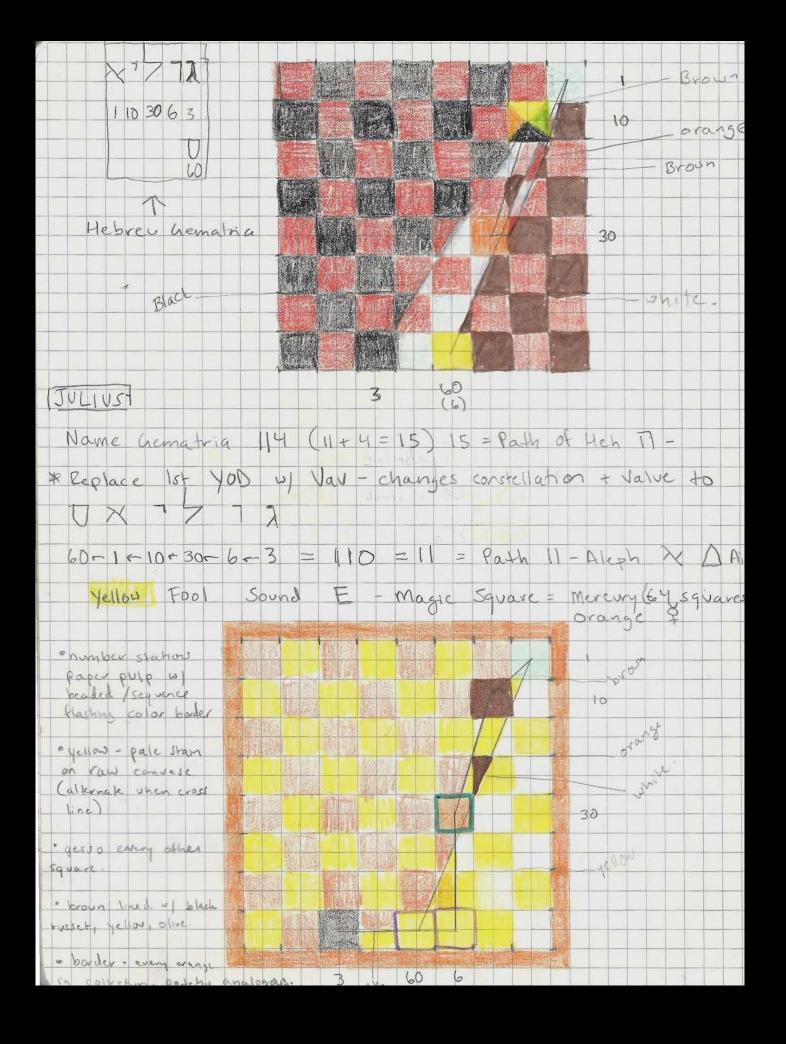
Raymond Uhlrich 7-26-1948

Patricia Howard 11-6-1948

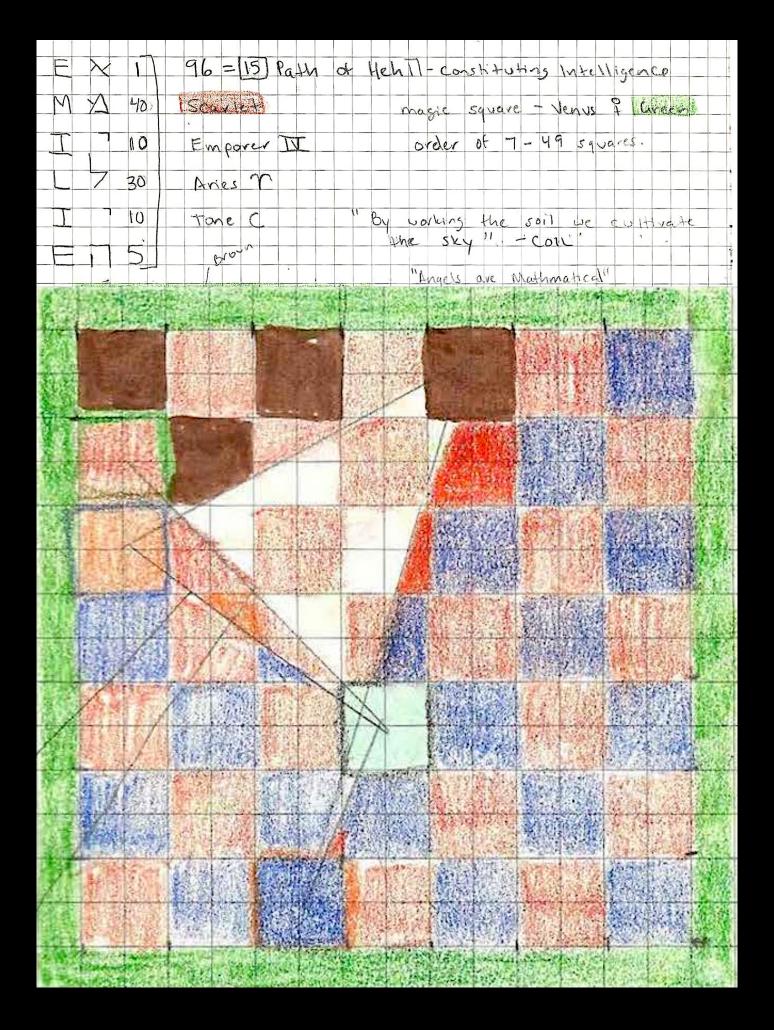
Sharon Howard 8-25-1953

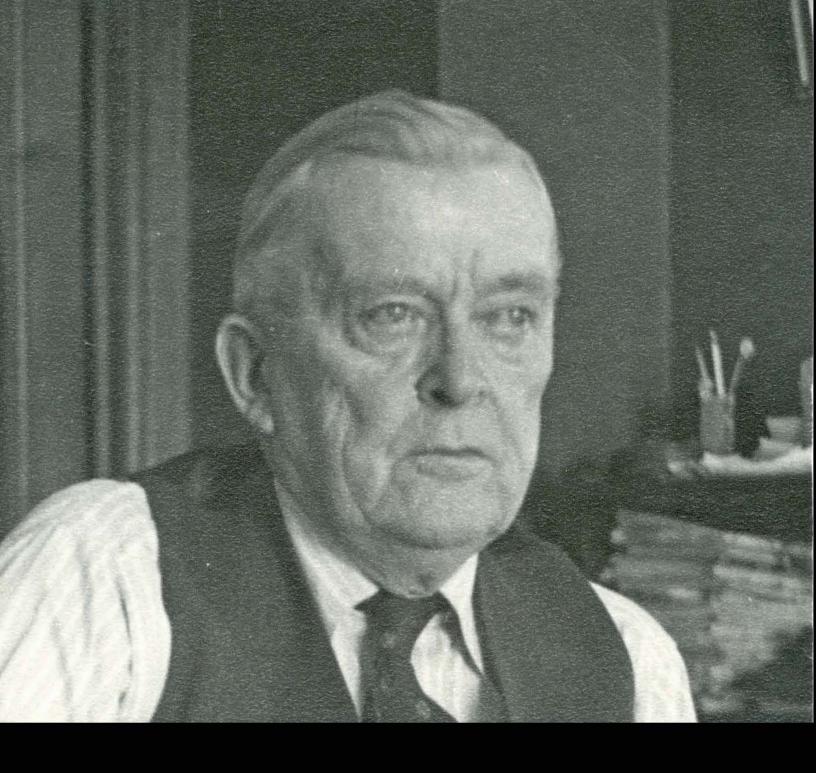
Rick Howard 9-5-1956

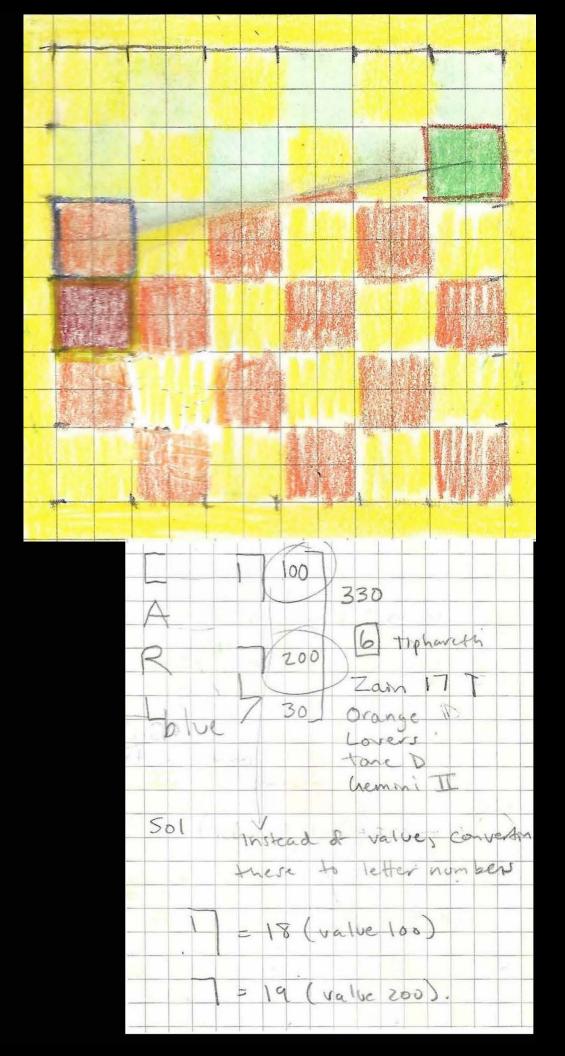




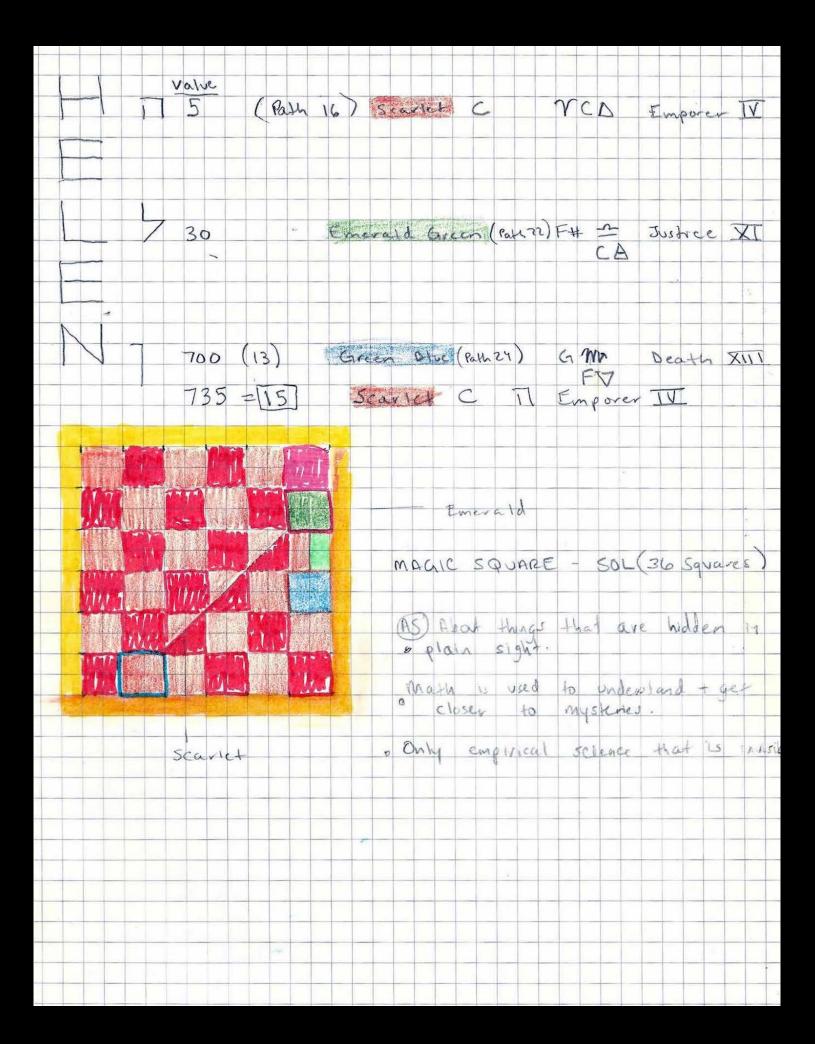










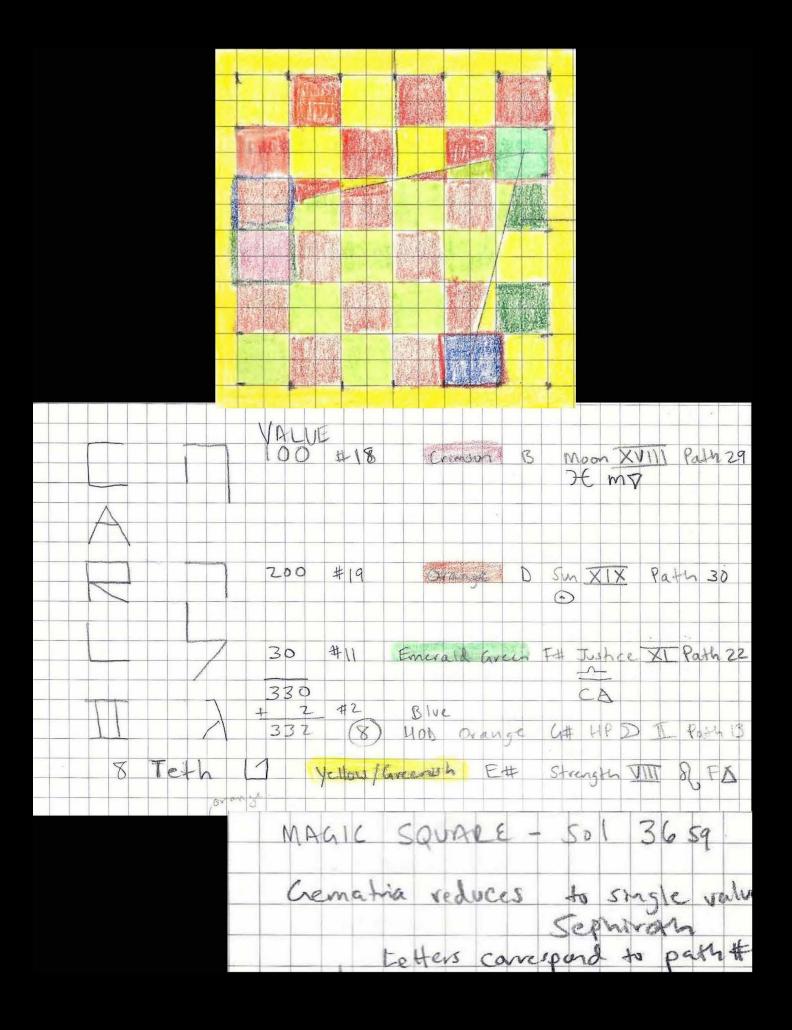














Helen - Soit Jaclet? Doll clothes? Anythong she made survive? Knitting, (wearing), handby material in different ways crocket. - She wants me so do shis Carl-down to earth. Scotland a Get stones fan nom. Leurn stores before fade awar Nelle brings daffodils - next sping something uns Millie showing lace. Nicely dressed.

bateing Xmas cooloes, Xmas stiff.

Food as love - Butter tarts? educated in small school house. Sensitive (- herch.) Crastinca v? Support + Love. Gentle seed Path Colors 40 10

10

11 emilia has

Sepiria colors

(single value)

10

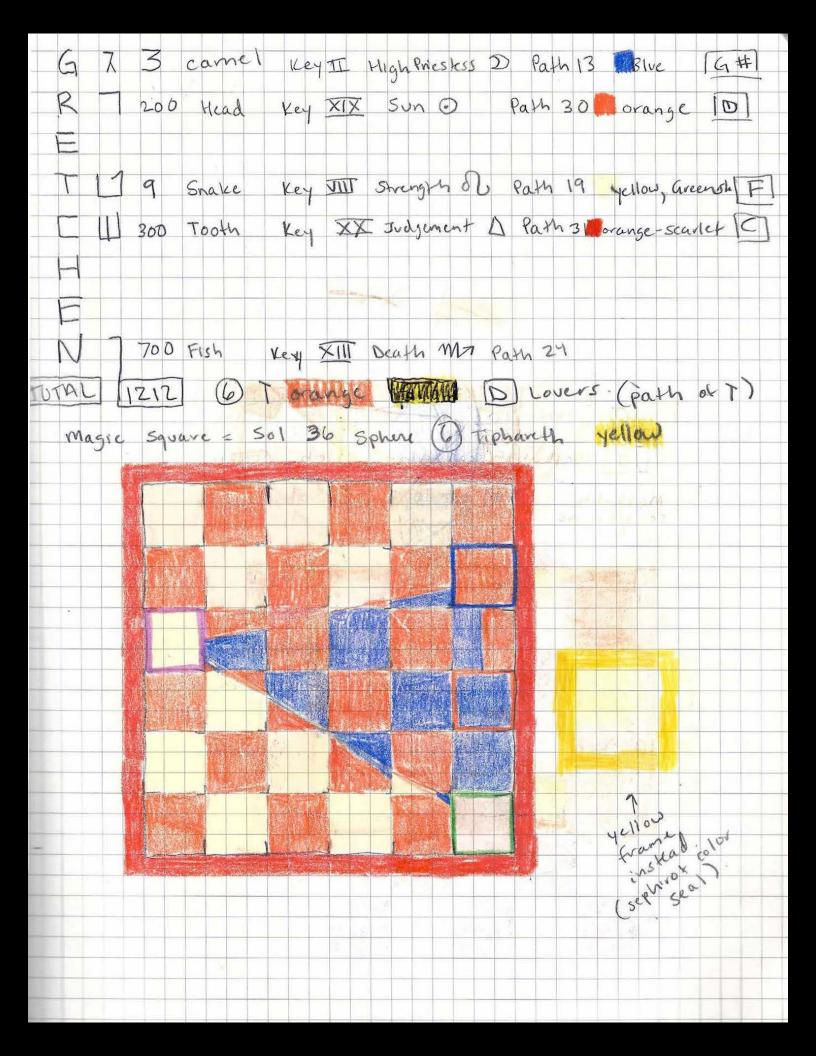
11 framed out vay

As districts h?

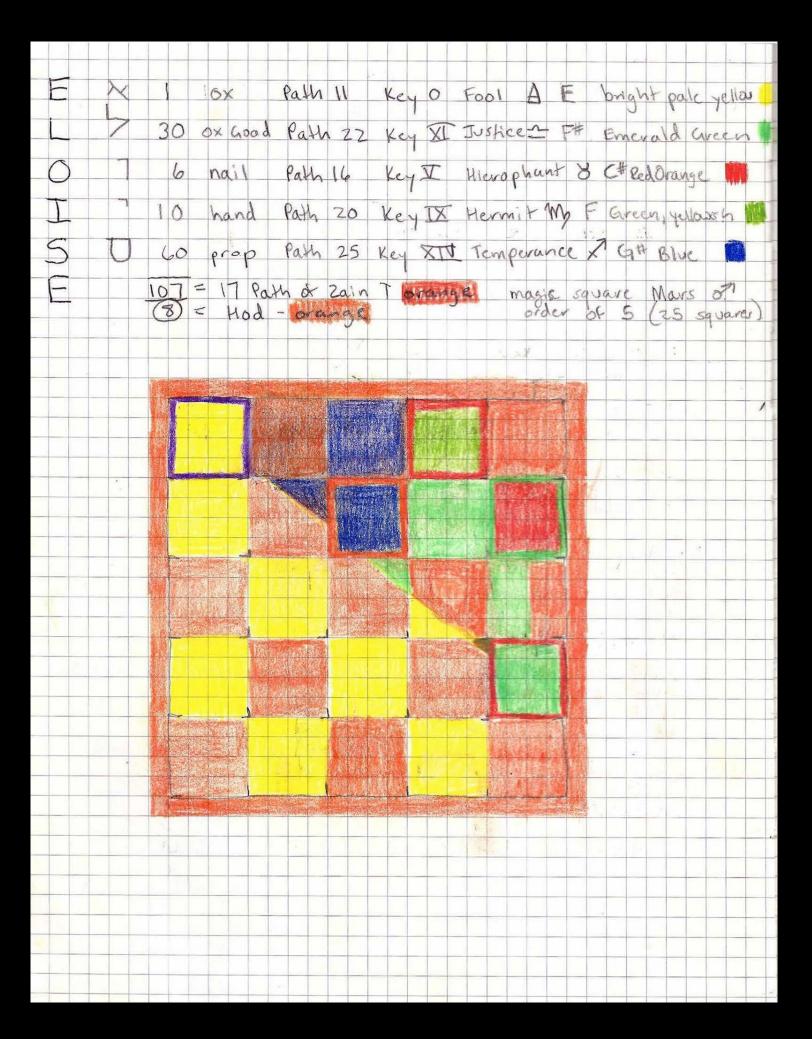
older = sephra 2

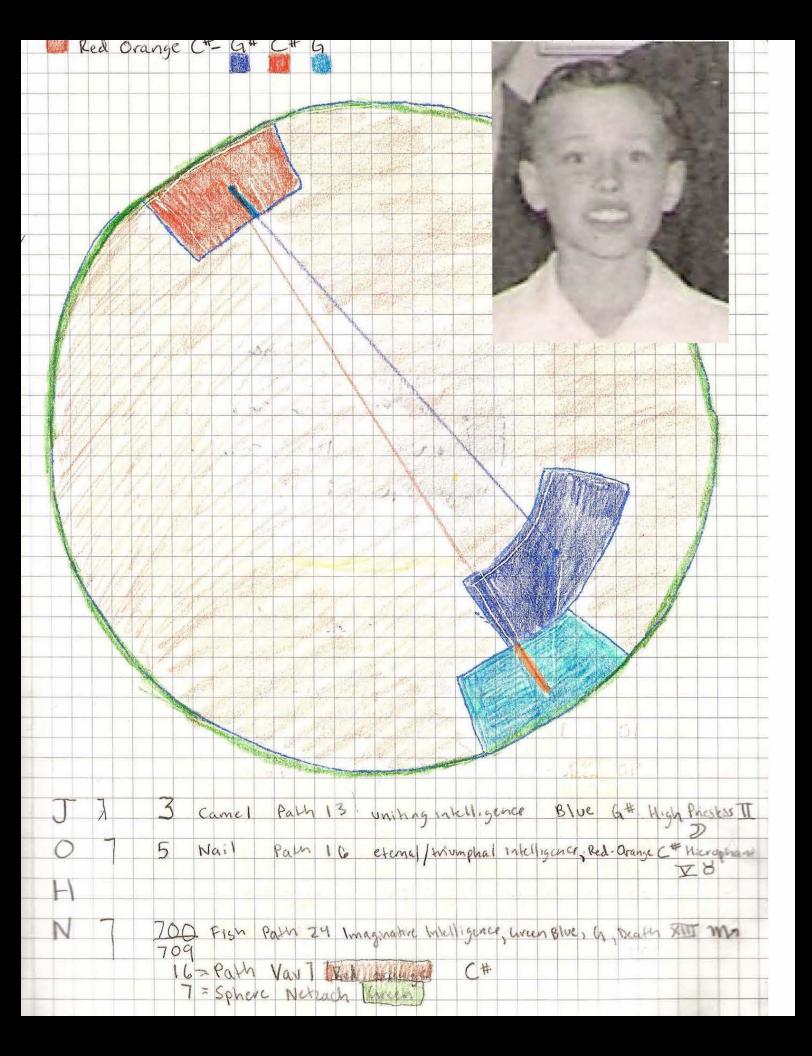
(15) not sephera Path of IT magic square ? (times) scallet C 49 Squares. MI ress 7

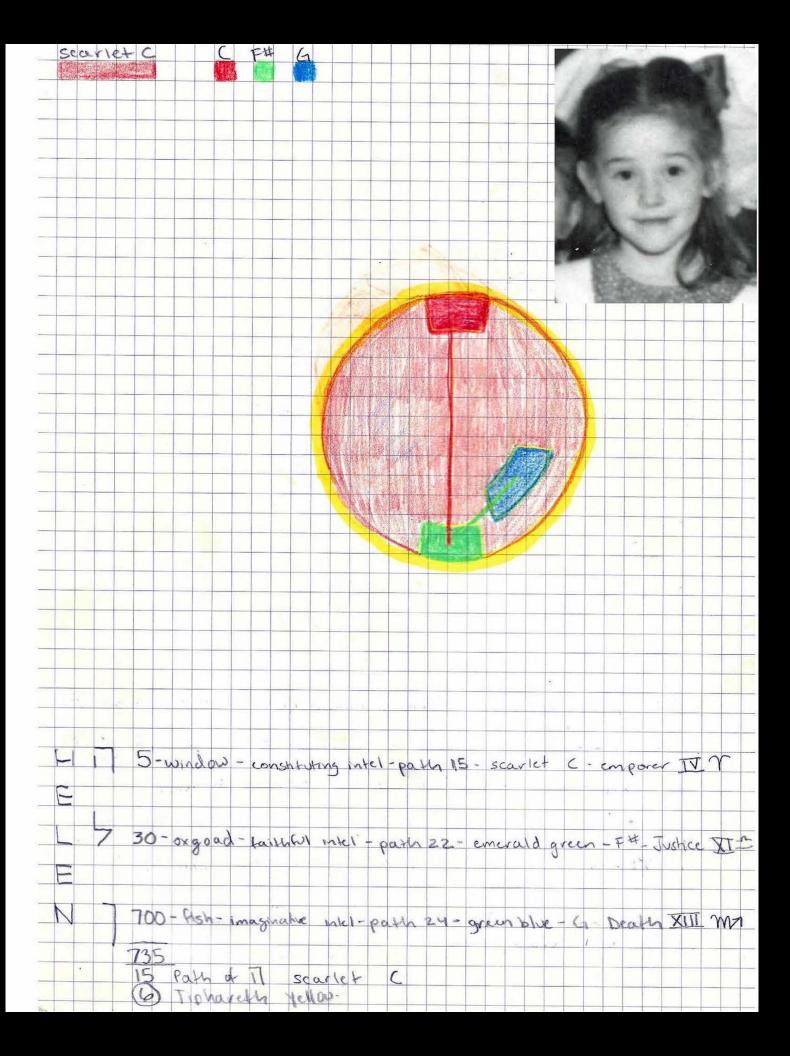


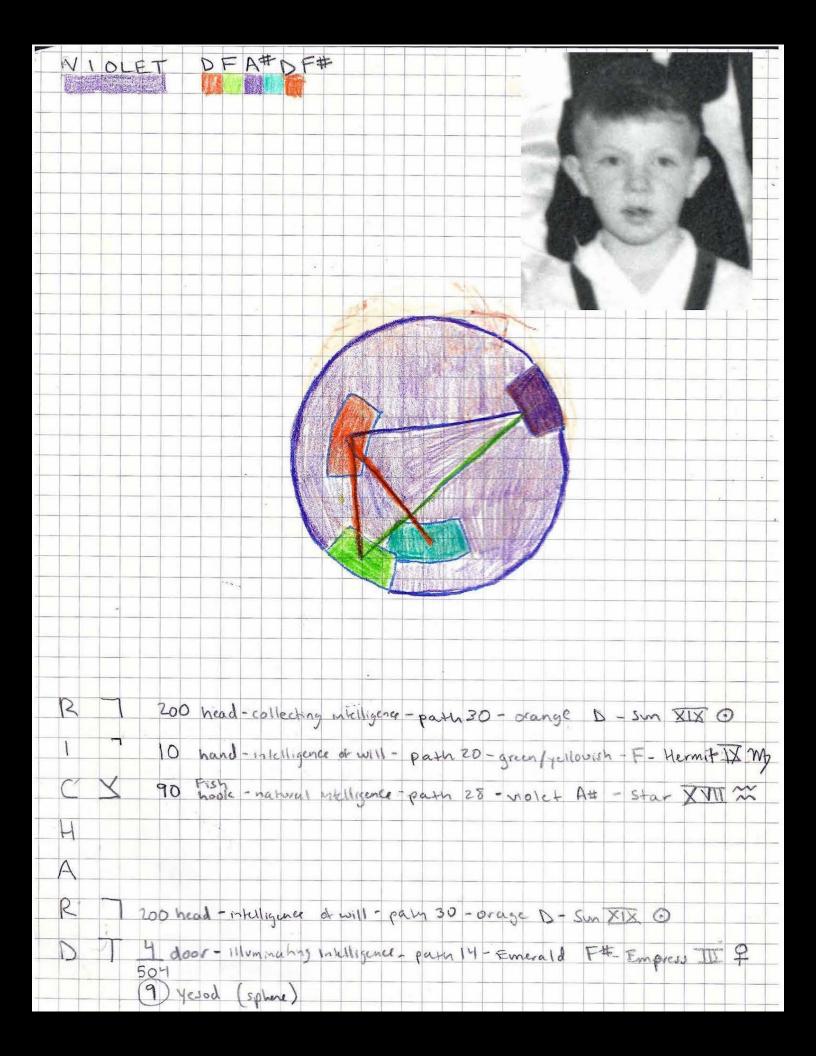


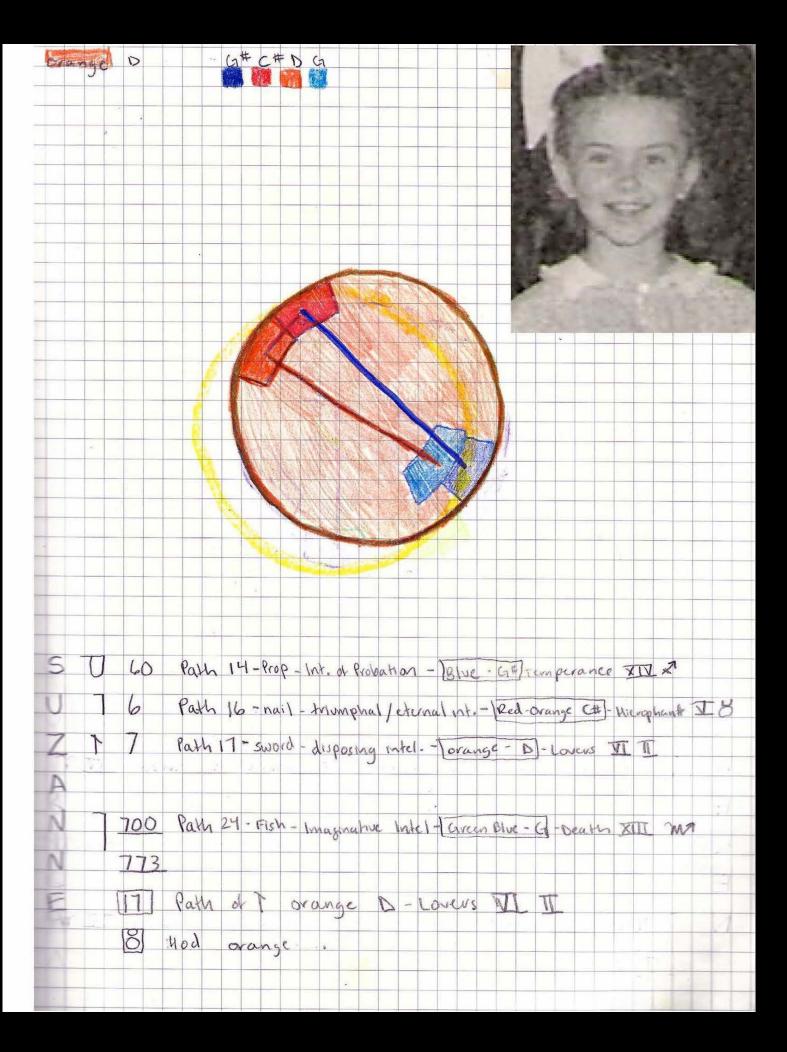


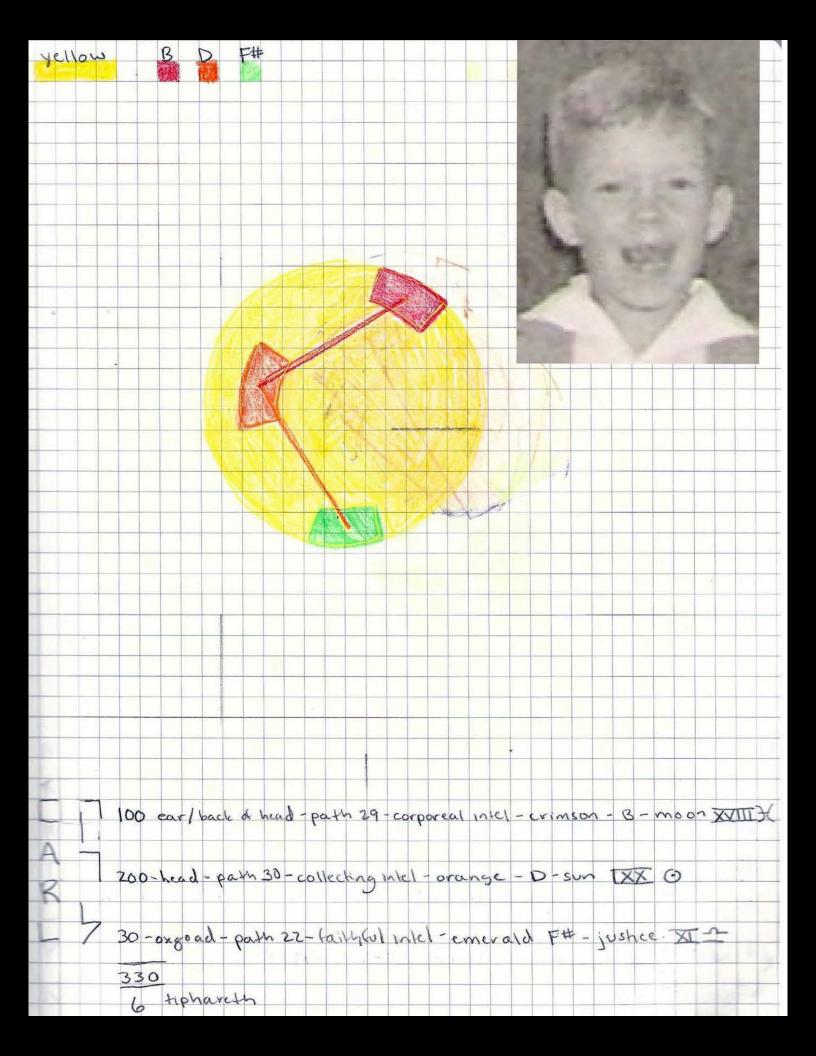


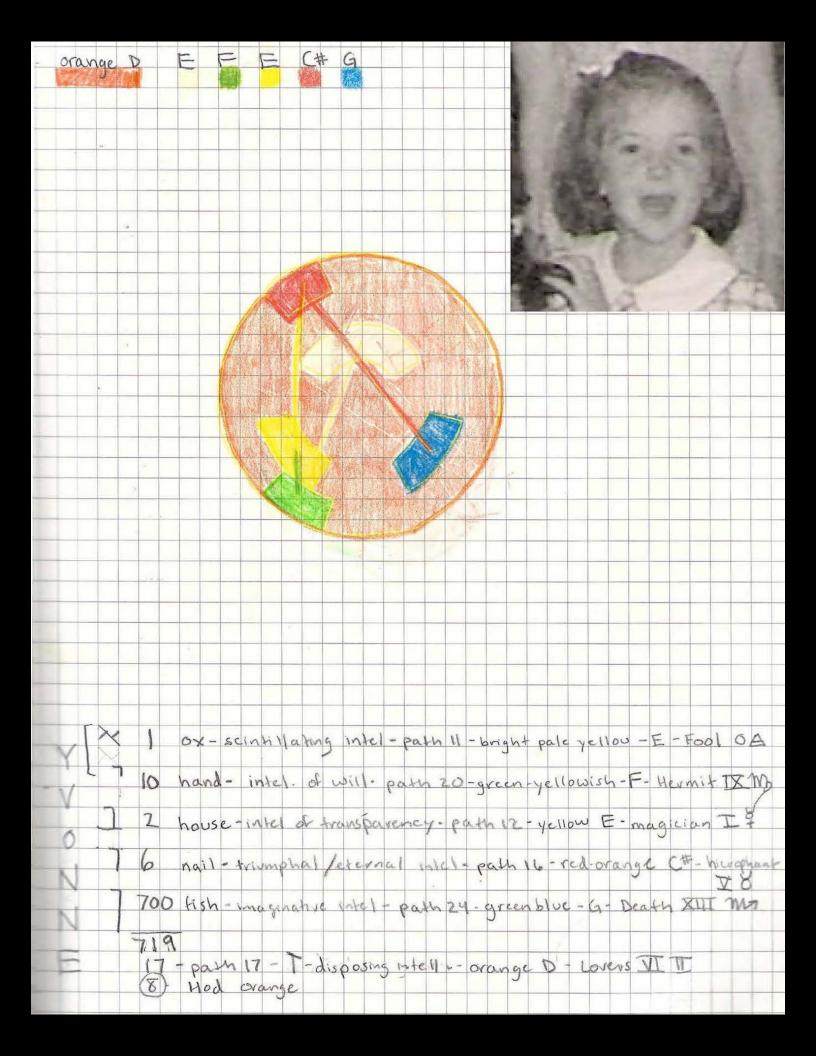


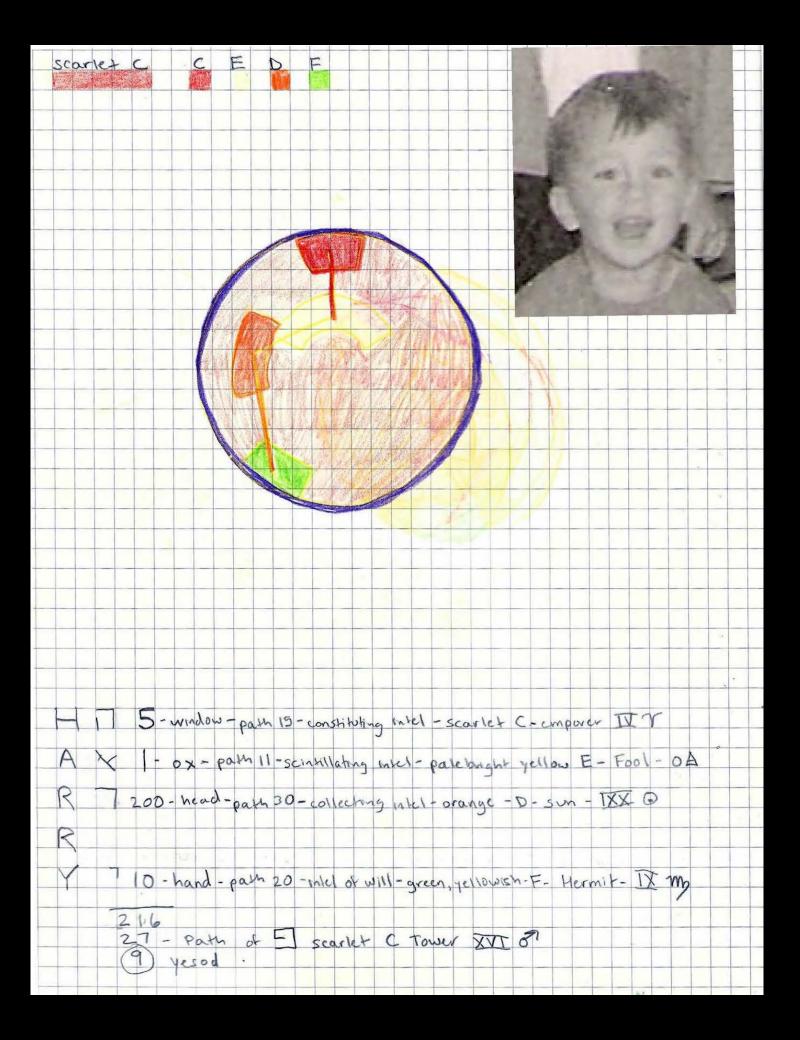


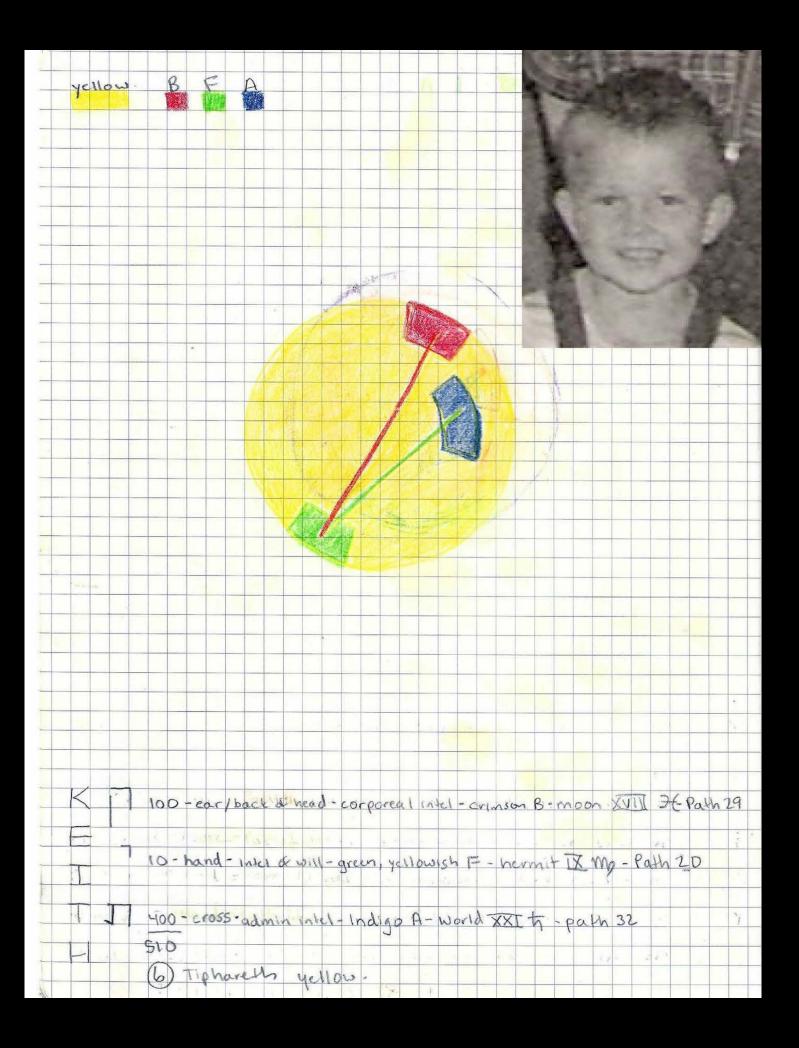


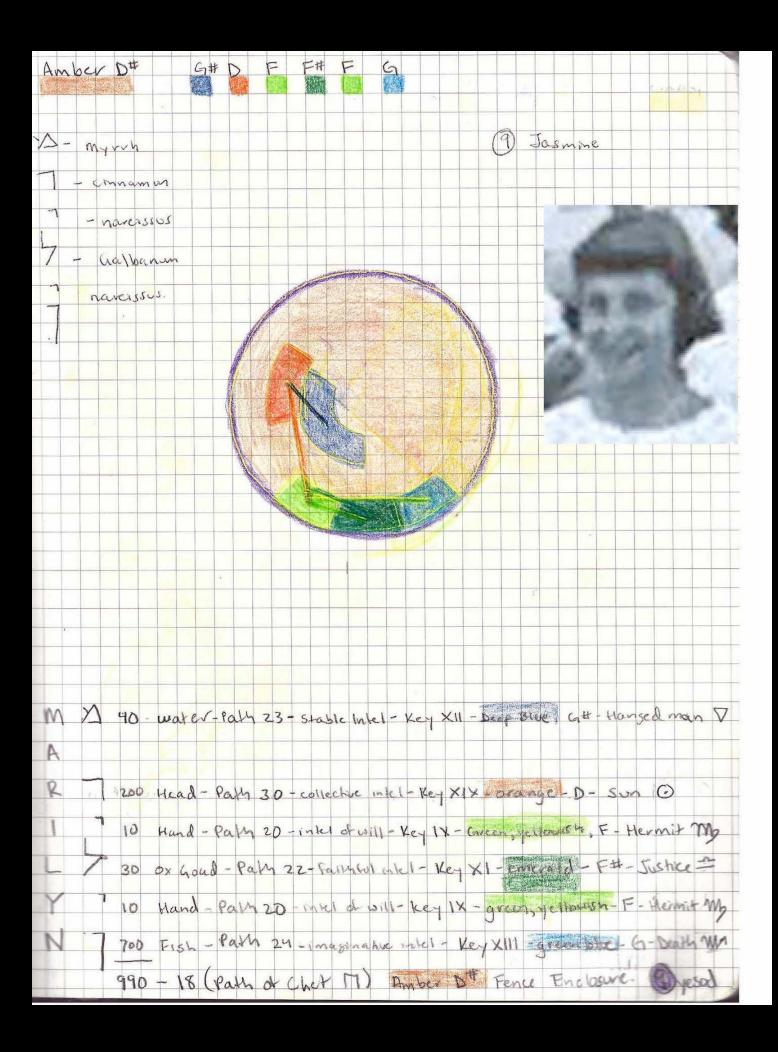


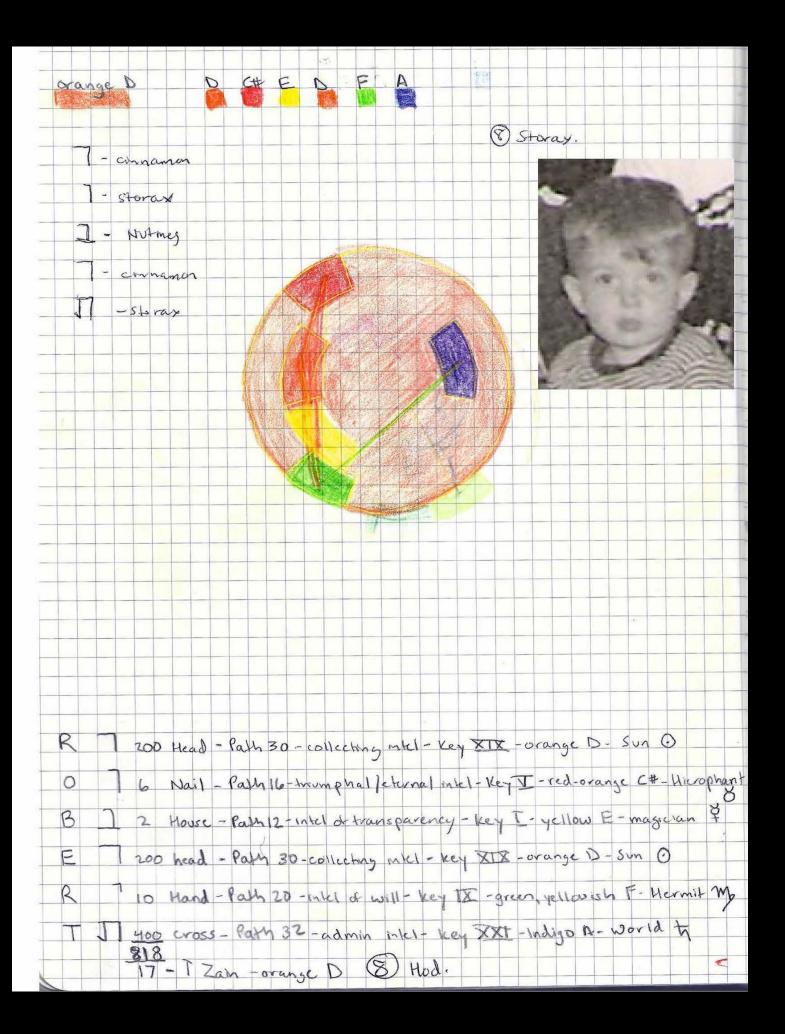


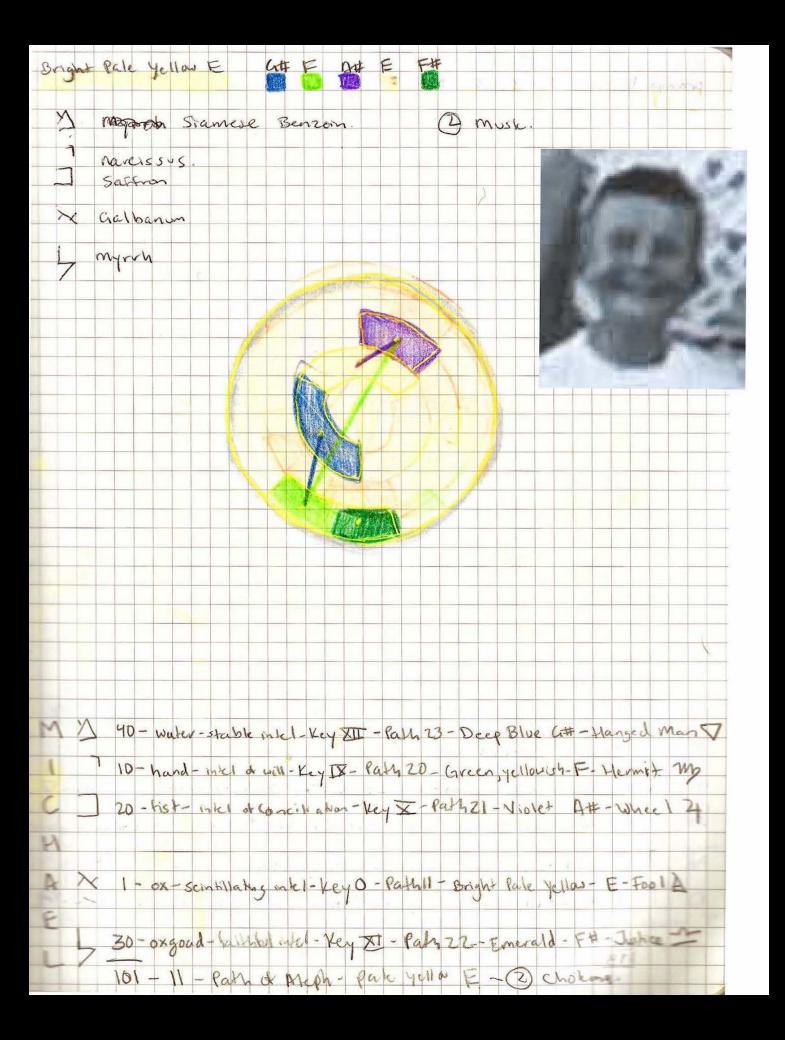


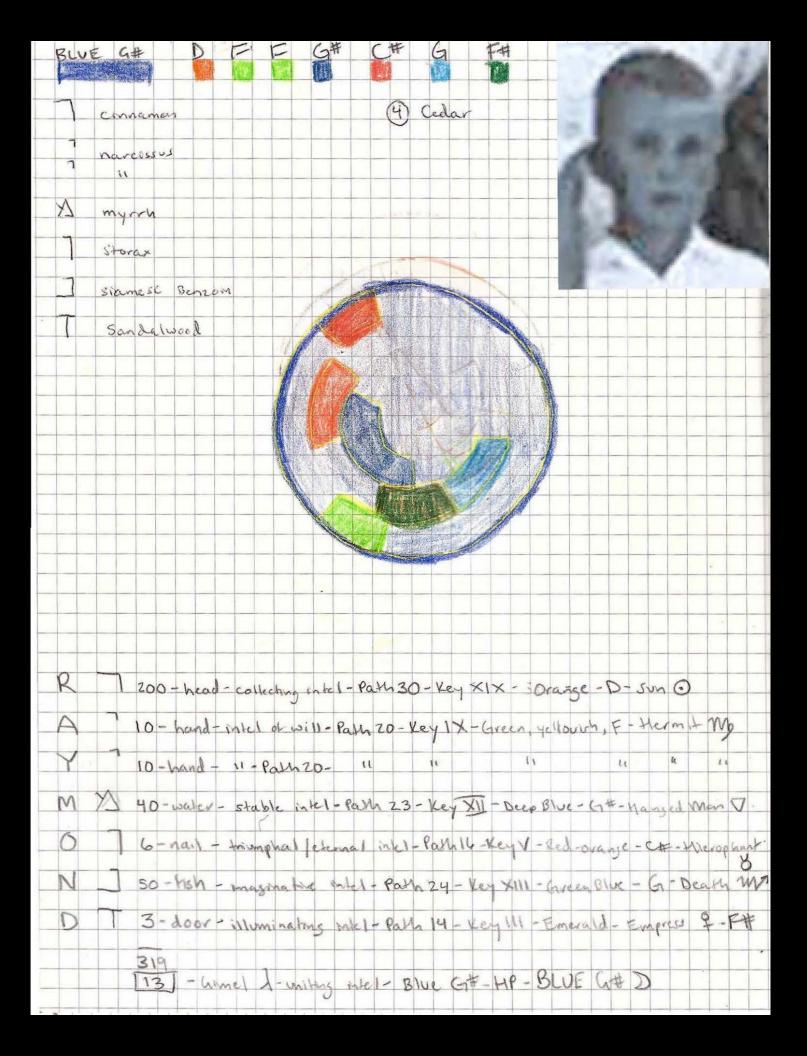


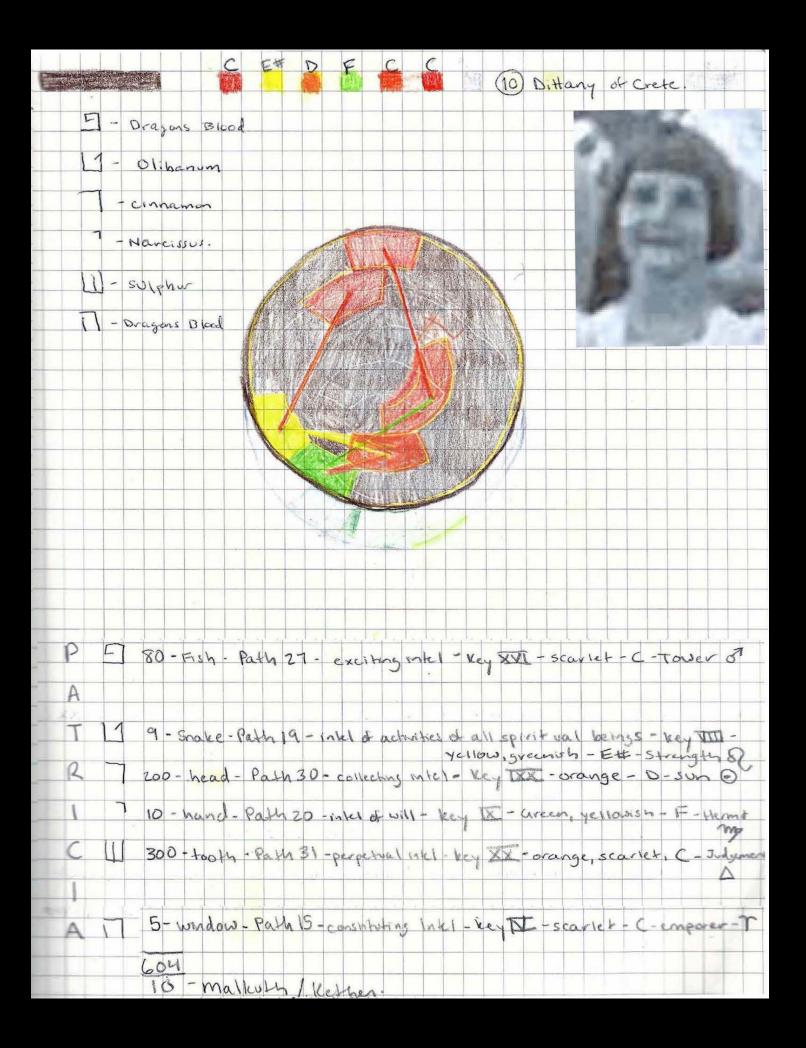


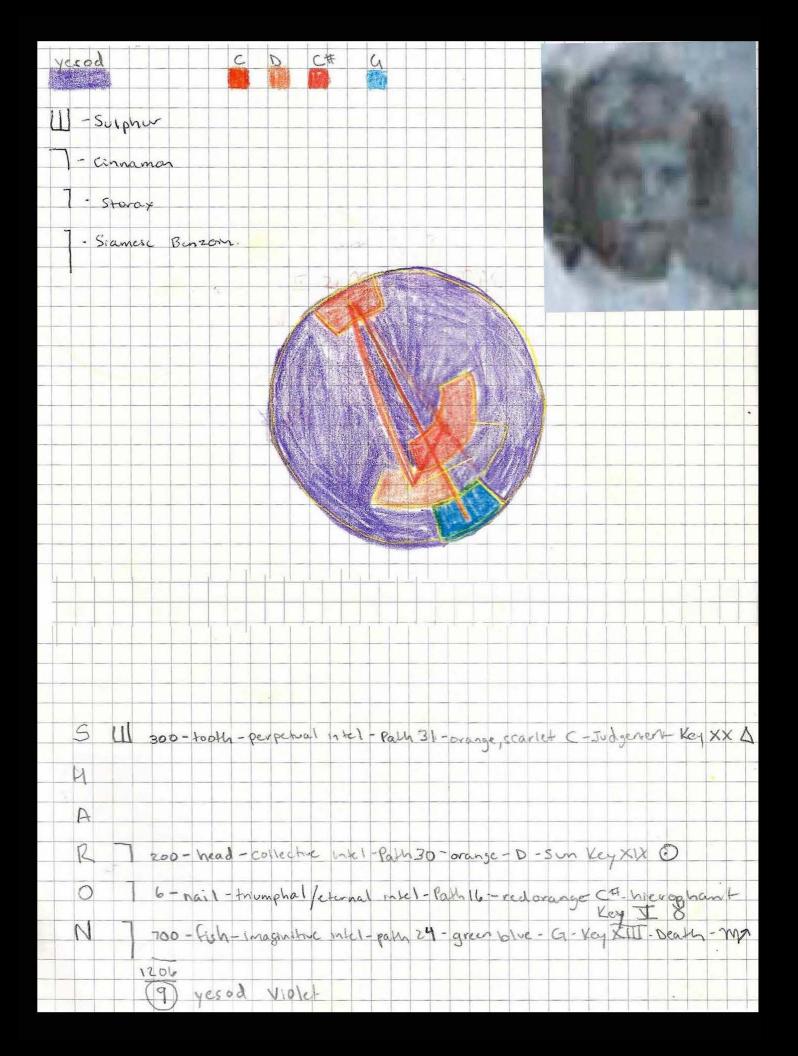


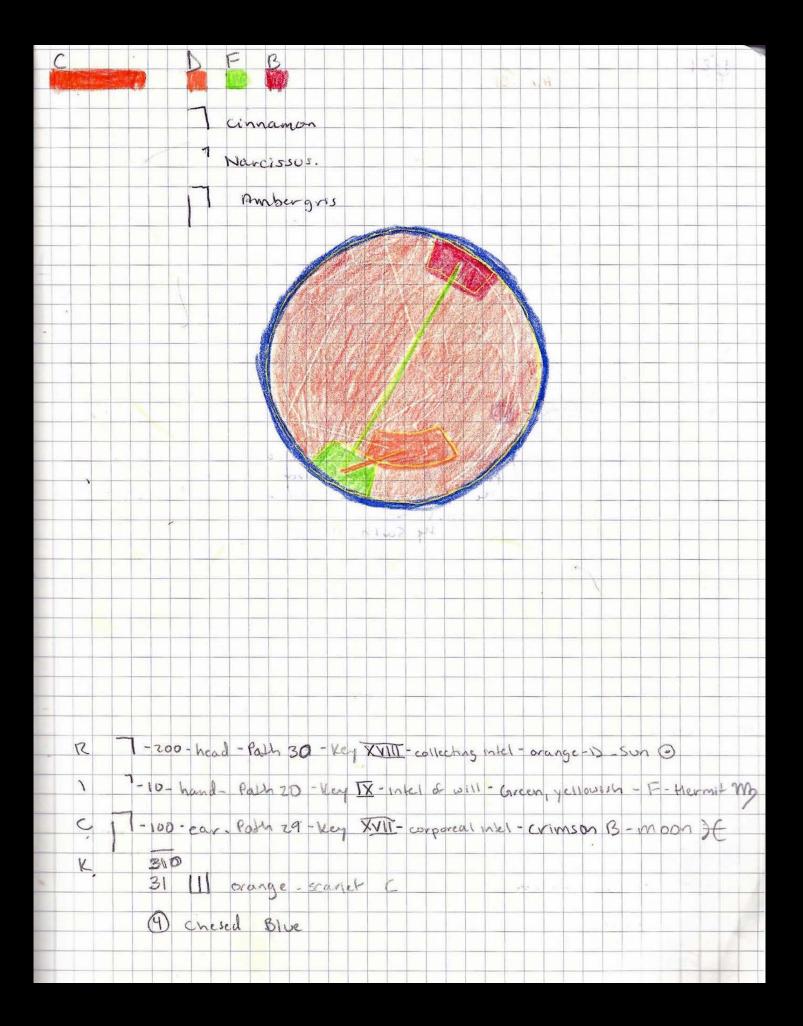












Boundless gratitude to those who inspired, supported and helped realize Settler Seance:

Melissa Ragain, Tinworks Art, Crystal
Alegria, Extreme History Project,
Gallatin History Museum, Mountain
Outlaw magazine, Yvonne Gritzner,
Suzanne Sparks, Helen Morrison, Carl
Lehrkind III, Robert Lehrkind, Carl
Lehrkind IV, Julius Lehrkind Brewing Co,
Ryan Mason and family, Shawn E Hansen,
Hannah Barrett, Naha Armady, Tami
Havton, Susan Aberth, Reverend Margaret
Ferris, Lehrkind Family ancestors in
Spirit, Robert Donaldson, Ash Gingerly,
Canon Parker, Ophelia Easton, Coram
Parker and Emma Bergman

⁻Laurel Sparks 2023