

Miss Eileen Miller
Transcription from Interview July 12, 2008
In Miss Miller's home, National Road, Wheeling (Fulton), WV

By Dr. Martha Lash, Kent State Early Childhood Education Professor and McNair Scholar Mentor (attended Warwood Schools and had Miss Miller for 8th grade English ~1970)

and

Miss Monica Ratcliffe, student, Kent State University Early Childhood Education and McNair Scholar

(Monica's grandmother lives in Wheeling WV; we learned that she is an acquaintance of Miss Miller. Though Monica now lives in Cleveland, Miss Miller knew many of her relatives.)

***Q**

Signifies Interviewer (Dr. Martha Lash/Miss Monica Ratcliffe)

***A**

Signifies Interviewee (Miss Eileen Miller)

*Q

This is Marty Lash and Monica Ratcliffe, we are taking the oral history of Ms. Eileen Miller on. July 12, 2008. (How are you Miss Miller?)

*A

Ready to jump up and run around! (laughing)

*Q

sounds good

*A

Yes

*Q

Thank you for agreeing to meet with Monica Ratcliffe and me today

*A

I'm happy to do it

*Q

It's exciting

*A

Yes

*Q

We are as we start to I was happy to have you as a student you make me work hard, all of us.

*A

Good

*Q

And therefore we wanted to come back and interview you but we thought that the best thing would be is just to ask you tell us your story. You know. just tell us how you want to tell it.

*A

Alright, from the beginning as of youngster like fives six or seven when I went to school the first day or so I was very impressed with my teachers and I decided then that I would

like to be one. In the summer time you know how little girls and boys would play to pretend they are somebody. My brother Thomas always wanted to be a preacher so he would preach and I always wanted to be a teacher so I would teach. So every chance that I got I would have two or three kids lined up teaching. As a youngster I was teaching and I went through school there was nothing that I felt was an imposition as an assignment to teach, I mean, to learn. I was always like a sponge, ready to suck it all up and enjoy doing it I always enjoyed my classroom and my teachers and I would select a certain point of outstanding gestures that when my teachers would seem to be prone to using and I would always remember that. For instance, my English teacher Miss (inaudible) at the time I had and she later was Mrs. Page, by the way I'm going to side track here. She (Monica) will be surprised to learn that female women that were teaching were not allowed to get married

*Q

When you were a girl?

*A

When I was a girl and when I was a teacher.

*Q

I am surprised too!

*A

Yes, I was twenty three when I began teaching

*Q

And, you were not allowed to get married?

*A

No, no.

*Q

So if you would have gotten married then you would have had to stop teaching?

*A

Yes, so there were a number of years that I was teaching that I don't remember what year it was that they finally went through the legislators and law and decided that the females could get married. But the males could get married but the females couldn't. I have an idea why, even so I still feel that it is somewhat unfair.

*Q

I agree with you

*A

And another factor was sometimes the salary was deflated for the female teachers from what I remember.

*Q

For doing the same job?

*A

Yes, that is one thing that I learned that I didn't approve of. I also enjoyed preparing myself to be a teacher. When I went to college I enjoyed college very much. And I remember a number of teachers that said that I was quite well prepared for the classroom and that they were going to offer me some more instruction. (In college classrooms) They (the professors) said where are you from? The other student would say New York City and they (professors) would say ' now here she is from West Virginia and you are from New York City and she knows this and knows that and know more than you know, but the thing was we had quite a faculty at Lincoln! ... you had some MAs

*Q

Some what?

*A

Some Masters, and some PhD's and some authors.

*Q

When you were in elementary and high school, you had teachers with master's degrees, PhDs and authors?

*A

Uhm (nodding head yes)

*Q

Wow!

*A

Quite a background

*Q

And, that's was in Wheeling, West Virginia in the thirty's and forty's

*A

Yes some of them would go to Pittsburg and get their background.

*Q

So were you born in Wheeling, West Virginia?

*A

Yes, I wasn't born in a hospital. I was always tickled at the ward when we had an assignment. The kids would say I was born in Benwood Hospital. they were doing that! I They said now we don't want that, they want Wheeling (the city, not hospital name).

*Q

They don't want Wheeling hospital or Bellaire they want your city.

So you were born at home, I take it?

*A

Yes, I was born in home.. And by the way I was born in the principal's home

*Q

What?

*A

Yes, my parents rented an apartment above where they lived and he had children and those children became my playmates and went up and graduated with me. We were very close, her name was Katherine she became a doctor. When I say a doctor I mean a medical doctor.

*Q

Right, I grew up thinking doctors were only medical doctors. And she went to Lincoln with you?

*A

She went to Lincoln with me. We graduated the same year.

*Q

What year was that?

*A

1938

*Q

1938

*A

In that book you can find 1938 and all my classmates

*Q

okay right here, the Lincoln panthers. So that is the end of the depression and beginning of World War II. You would know the story of those times.

*A

Really! Thirty-eight

*Q

Thirty-eight

*A

1938

*Q

I see, I see, and look what they have by your name Eileen Miller former Lincoln teacher . Okay so what was her name, Katherine?

*A

Katherine Rainbow

*Q

Rainbow? Oh, there is Ila Iza Williams, former Lincoln teacher.

*A

They don't have Katherine Rainbow there?

*Q

Let me see. In 1938?

*A

She should be there.

*Q

Do you think they have her in the year before or after?

*A

We were classmates because one thing we would do as elementary students at recess in the afternoon we would always have a bologna sandwich. She would have hers and I would have mine.

*Q

You were chums?

*A

Right, dry bologna.

*Q

Dry bologna ?

*A

With onions and everything. We would get in the classroom smelling like onions. She had them in there. I cannot imagine where she was at that time I thought she was in there.

*Q

Were you born in Fulton? You lived in Fulton?

*A

No, I was born in town on Charles Street up where the playground is.

*Q

So you were close to Lincoln to be able to walk. I was going to ask you how would you get to school.

*A

Yes, in the neighborhood I was telling her that I walked to school, I didn't have to be bused to school.

*Q

And you were saying to that was the first Lincoln, the Red brick building?

*A

With the steeple and everything on it with the bell in it that they would ring the bell and all the children in the neighborhood would go. And that (pointing to booklet) would give a background of Lincoln, I think.

*Q

And, so, how did they do the classrooms? Was it just first grade summed together, was it mixed classes, was it one room for a couple of grades?

*A

First grade was just the first grade and the second grade room another room third grade room another room and so forth.

*Q

Okay, and were all of your teacher then African American?

*A

Oh yes

*Q

Yes

*A

And we had something that would very, that you were familiar with: dramas every year

*Q

Oh yeah, plays and dramas

*A

Yes yes twice a year we had them one. We didn't have an auditorium in our school but we would have to use Wheeling High School.

*Q

Oh, okay.

*A

In fact, I graduated on that stage. .

*Q

So you did the graduations and the dramas in Wheeling High? Now, Wheeling High has that been torn down? The old Wheeling High?

*A

Yes in fact that's were we have part of the parking lot for OBNC and we have a gas station and everything now/

*Q

(Dr. Lash to Monica...That is down by Center Market where we were for fish sandwiches, I have not been down (past Wheeling High for several year now...I forgot.)

*A

Oh Wheeling High School is right next to the YMCA down there.

*Q

Oh, yes, the old YMCA....we did see the women's Y, you meant the men's YMCA that is down my Center Market

*A

Yes

*Q

So that is what you did you used auditorium space?

*A

All the time and we used I can remember very distinctly on my third grade level I had a teacher that was quite kind towards preparing for things like games, and you know competitive games, and calisthenics, and so forth. I was good with the calisthenics on third grade level. I was the one who led the group, just third grade.

*Q

Of the whole group?

*A

The whole!

*Q

Oh, wow, you must have been good. I thought you meant the third grade class you meant the school.

*A

I meant the school. Now that was over at the stadium, not the playground.

*Q

Oh, at Wheeling Island, because we always had that nice stadium.

*A

Yeah, May the first we'd always run over there and had field day

*Q

I thought you were going to say a May Day celebration but you meant field day.

A*

Field Day, and we just, with that now, 87 is getting close to me now..... Umm....square dancing, we did a lot of that.

*Q

You did a lot of that?

*A

Ummmm Hmmmmm. (nodding) In fact I taught youngsters to do that in high school. And they enjoyed it too.

*Q

We did that too. I didn't have you when you were teaching that!

*A

Oh yeah. I always had a position where I was a leader in someway even in my YW work. We weren't the girl res, we weren't the Y team, we was with the girl reserve and I was like president or something like that or representative that I would go and report each month at the big Y, where different ones and different localities would come and make a report of what the club was doing.

*Q

So when you did that for Lincoln, were you the president of the girl reserve? I didn't know that. I can see you being a leader. That's what my image. So you had it even as a child

*A

Yeah, and it carried through. I'll always take part in community activities. I'm not doing it now as much as I used to but I tried to donate to various charities now if I have two cents to give. I have enjoyed teaching. In fact I look forward to a new class every year. I'll always look forward, just as a youngster would be excited to come to school, I was excited to go to school to see who my new students would be. But I was very very impressed with having homeroom students for six years.

*Q

Was that different having homeroom students?

*A

Oh yes!

*Q

So you'd have those students for six years.

*A

Yes! For instance ugh, Mary Junior.

*Q

Was she a student?

*A

Yeah, Mary Junior...Her dad was the principal down at ugh elementary.

*Q

Oh Smith?

*A

Yeah, Smith, how about that. I got that name and Rob Stewart.

*Q

You had those kids in your homeroom?

*A

Those two and they were just like that. And they their lockers were outside of my classroom. And every day, the first year that I was there, every day they would be upstairs when I came to school.

*Q

They were early.

*A

Guiding me, telling me what was going to happen.

*Q

Really?

*A

Yes, but the secretary downstairs had done it Ms. Secanboro (inaudible) and I'd come upstairs and those students would be up there giggling and laughing and kicking their heels and (tell me) I want to demonstrate that for you. So (so) this, that, and the other Ms. Miller and we won't do this and we won't do that, but tomorrow we will have such and such a thing. They kept me alive. They helped me a lot.

*Q

So when you first went there (Warwood Junior/Senior High School), they were the kids, they helped you and greeted you?

*A

Yes, they were in my homeroom and they were sophomores at the time so I only had them for two years.

*Q

Right, and then you started back over with seventh graders. At the time Warwood was seven through twelve. They call it junior high and high school so it's all in one building and so if you did you had the kids six years with you teacher and you saw them through graduation.

*A

That's right, that's right.

*Q

Before we get to Warwood, you graduated in 1938 (from Lincoln) and then you went to college right away?

*A

Yes, I went to college at West Virginia State College down outside of Charleston in this place called Institute.

*Q

Institute West Virginia. Yes, I've heard of it.

*A

Yes, and, it is now West Virginia State University.

*Q

Oh, WVU? No West Virginia State.

*A

University. Yeah. In other words it has the qualifications for giving certain higher degrees.

*Q

How did you end up doing all of that? I mean that was in 1938... I think about my parents and my aunts and uncles, most of them were barely finishing high school (in depression era). And so you were taught by educated teachers and left high school at what, 18 or about there and went to college straight from there. How did you do all of that?

*A

Well my mother, I had a single mother, and she worked everyday, but she worked in a bank building, and they say the bankers educated the men. In the summer I would come back and work doing something.

*Q

In the bank or just in Wheeling?

*A

In Wheeling and whatever I made, the little bit of money I always put something towards payment for my education. That was understood. So I was paying for my education from the time I went to college.

*Q

That is really amazing. You are a leader. You know you have that something inside of you too...

*A

Well, a large part of my mother, she was my mentor so to speak. Nothing seems to stop her and she put it into me. She showed me that I could do (anything) and nothing was too inferior for me to do. I ran every elevator in town. I ran the elevator at McClure, at the Windsor and at JC Penny, JC Penny's when they first came in town, I was the first operator.

*Q

Were you in high school then?

*A

Yes, I was in high school and got that job the summer before I went to college. I'll tell you about that. They wanted to keep me and said now if you stay we will move you up and you will make more money and so and so and so and so. I said no I'm going to college, I'm lined up to go to college and that's what I'm going to do. I said, Now, when I come back visiting, if you have something that you know I'm in town if you want me to relieve somebody or fill in for them, I'll be glad to do that because that's what I did at the McClure and Windsor. The girls would come at like five o'clock in the morning

knocking on my door wanting me to go to work for them at seven o'clock which I would go, they [inaudible] and I would go and fill in for them for the day.

*Q

It gave you a job so you can earn money to go to college, and then the bankers, your mom worked with them, so they loaned you money and you totally had to pay them back? Did they forgive any of those loans? (sees Miss Miller shaking head.) Never mind...

*A

No, No I got so I was very well known, very well known. And I paid them too. No they didn't forgive any of them, I had to pay them, and I paid them.

*Q

And when you went to Institute

*A

I also worked there. I worked in a printing shop there and when I worked in the printing shop, the gentleman that was in charge of the printing also asked me if I would go and do his light work.... go and straighten up the office and house, sometimes once a week and I would do that with him. And they (the printer and his wife.) would invite me and my little boyfriend which they knew really well because he worked in the printing shop too, over for dinner at their home. But Mr. Gregory, that was his name. Two things he taught me. Don't touch a thing on my desk. You clean my office but don't move anything on that desk! Which I wouldn't move anything on his desk. It can stay all junked up and dusty all it wanted to, didn't touch it. At home, I don't know what he was like with them over night. They had a pillow fight evidently and they had feathers everywhere? I actually showed them up and everything when they got home and it was very meticulous when they got home. Yeah that house was a mess when I went in it but when they got home, it was clean. Because I was trained to do that because my brother and I Thomas... I had two brothers, no sisters. My sister died before I was born. I grew up with two brothers.

*Q

Were they younger than you?

*A

No older.

*Q

You was the baby of the family?

*A

I was the baby.

*Q

You're a baby, she's a baby, I'm a baby!

*A

Three babies. And the boys, momma wouldn't let them leave me for anything. I became a boy scout before I even became a girl reserve. I had to go with Henry, I even, one of their obstacle chores that they had to do. He put the roof around me and I was part of it too. You know where the tanks are down here?

*Q

The tanks?

*A

Yeah you past by them coming here on your right from Lincoln the tanks from the reservoir. We went up that hill. Can you imagine, we went up that hill and it was quite a

hill. I can tell you that. Everywhere-- I made a pretty good boy scout. The only thing that he can do was go camping to camp and I stayed home. Thomas would be home with me because Thomas was not into the boy scouts. Thomas was Tommy's daddy (her nephew who helped to set up the interview) and he was 22 months older than me and I enjoyed my brothers because they made things very interesting for me. We came down this hill, up here, we had a hill on a long sled when a lot of traffic was coming up and down that hill and they left me on that last turn after they got off me (stack on top of one another for sledding) and then they threw me off.

*Q

Yeah it was hard to hold on coming down those hills without flying off .

*A

Enjoyed myself as a girl, enjoyed myself as an adult, teacher- really enjoyed myself doing that. I looked forward to every class. Every class day I was the first (to arrive) and the last to leave—(didn't waste) a minute a day.

*Q

Were you? Was that at Lincoln?

*A

I did it at Warwood. Sometimes I was at Warwood I had the library for the junior high you know that full-time and I would stay there after school. My little helpers, they would help me, but I would take the bus back home... on the bus and I would transfer to the transit bus.

*Q

Right, is that how you went back and forth to work?

*A

Yes, I caught two buses.

*Q

To get to Warwood?

*A

Yes

*Q

When you taught at Lincoln did you just walk to work?

*A

Yes, I lived just down the block, half a block from Lincoln

*Q

From Lincoln. and you taught at Lincoln from 19...

*A

You know where the

*Q

I know where the Methodist Church is

*A

No I am talking about the high rise on Chapel Street, George Washington

*Q

We just saw Booker T.

*A

Booker T, that's what.

*Q

Yes, it is right beside Lincoln, its like right there.

*A

Yeah.

*Q

Is that where you lived, was in that area?

*A

In that area. Right across--- the left building --that is right across from the Pythian building

*Q

The Pythian building?

*A

I lived right across from there.

*Q

Okay.

*A

I live 1028 chapel Street for years 25 years I lived there.

*Q

Wow!

*A

Before I was on Mars Street (?)

*Q

You were living there and then you went to college you would come back to there and then you went right from college to teaching at Lincoln?

*A

Uhm

*Q

And you couldn't bring this boyfriend because teachers weren't allowed to be married?

*A

That's right

*Q

Are you serious?

*A

Uhm. You couldn't bring boyfriends plus the boyfriend lives in Washington, DC! And, I checked the other day in one of the books that has a listing for all the he still is in Washington DC . William Dunkens.

*Q

William Dunkens

*A

Was my boyfriend, big ears!

*Q

We won't tell him you said that.

*A

Yes, I enjoyed my college life.

*Q

Did you, was it hard to be away from home?

*A

No, I had friends. In fact, I am going to tell you something. When I graduated my mother had to send word to Mr. Gregory to make me come home. I was hanging out down on the campus sleeping with this one and that one and the other one.

*Q

Really? Ms. Miller I never knew that about you.

*A

Yes, cheating, isn't that awful? (giggling)

*Q

No!

*A

It was fun. Yes, my mother called Gregory and told him, 'Put her on the bus and send her home!'

Two weeks after I graduated...

*Q

Oh, you were still there?

*A

Yeah

*Q

Sorry, I didn't expect that, it's a great story.

*A

I got some more to tell you, not from down there!

*Q

Okay, so you were fine on your own down there. You were a leader

*A

I was a conniver!

*Q

Conniver?

*A

Investigator and all that. Enjoyed myself and Leslie the head, the mother of the dormitory would look out anytime at me sitting on the benches a whole lot of boyfriends around me

*Q

You were quite a looker and a dresser.

*A

She wanted to know why I had so many boys. I said I have two brothers and I enjoy the male background.

*Q

Yeah?

*A

I put her in her place, why don't you do it, in other words, you know, go out there and sit on the bench with a whole lot of fellows?

*Q

Good for you, good for you. So your mom and Mr. Gregory but you on the bus then and sent you back?

*A

Oh yes she put me on the bus and sent me home! Tidbit, he called me Tidbits because I was in the bedroom lying

*Q

Oh yeah you were

*A

Extreme lying you know anyhow. What are you still doing down there he said your mother wants you to come on home. She wanted me to come home and work. I'm not ready yet. Well, the dean called me into his office and said Miss Miller I have a position

that I think you could have teaching in Brookfield some place in Indiana or something like that. I said no I'm going home I am not ready to move into another state yet. I am going to stay in West Virginia and grow drastically; and I stayed in West Virginia

*Q

As long as you could

*A

Exactly and I am still here as I have threatened to stay here till I am a hundred.

*Q

Yay! Alright.

*A

87 now.

*Q

Let us know if we wear you out.

*A

You can't wear me out.

*Q

Okay, we'll let you know when you wear us out. (laughing)

*A

(laughing) That is what I was thinking! You let me know when I wear you out.

*Q

Okay.

*A

Alright I am off campus now I am gone. I have graduated, I have come home and this gentleman that

*Q

Wait, what happened? What's your degree in?

*A

Math and social studies.

*Q

For upper grades ?

*A

Secondary, that was my BS in education.

*Q

Math and social studies?

*A

Math and social studies.

*Q

I had you for English in 8th grade. I think it was 8th grade

*A

Well they went back into my background and I had an elementary certificate too.

*Q

Oh okay. Oh wow you had both!

*A

Yeah I am going to tell you all about that

*Q

okay

*A

I quite a background, anyhow I came home and this gentlemen his name was Desmond Chapman. I had known him since we were neighbors, he was a coal miner. I met him when he first had an accident in the coal mine and his wife had said would I like to come and visit him and I don't know how, but it chopped his arm off. I said, oh, by the way, mama has a pound cake at home would you like a slice of it? He said, I certainly would, so, I went over and got him a slice of mama's pound cake; it hadn't been cut, but I had very generous mother.

*Q

Oh okay I was going to ask did you get in trouble?

*A

No. He ate that piece of cake, he said, oh that was good. I said, would you like another slice? I went over there and when my mama got home she had half the cake! And, I had fed half to Mr. Chapman; he never forgot... he never forgot and it turned out it paid off. He said when I got back in town he said I got some place that I want to take you. I said where? He said to the board of education I want to introduce to a particular board member and hear he will give you a job. I got a job. See how that paid off.

*Q

Yeah, write that down for tips when we are trying to get teachers hired. Yeah, watch who you give cake too, it might pay off. And that job was at Lincoln?

*A

Yes. I went in as a substitute-- not a substitute teacher-- I went in as a fill-in for my math teacher that I had taught that I had been taught under. OT Shannon was his name he was also the authors he wrote books that I like.

*Q

Wow, a math teacher and he wrote books.

*A

Uhm, yeah very intelligent fellow

*Q

Did you tell me once he was going off to work?

*A

Yeah that's right I filled in for him until he came back and when he came back I lost my job

*Q

Oh my gosh really?

*A

I really did, like he came back in November and in December I didn't have a job.

*Q

What happened?

*A

I got dismissed. He got back into his position and I went to Pittsburg and got a job. The purpose was my background for a job.

*Q

What was your background? Math and social studies?

*A

Yes, but for a job. I didn't try for a teaching job.

*Q

Oh you went to Pittsburg and got a job as an elevator person

*A

Sure did! (laughing)

*Q

Oh yeah.

*A

I had the best time of my life. I had a wonderful job, meanwhile I was trying to get a job in social work.

*Q

Okay.

*A

And this fella, he was a friend of my older brother Henry. His name is Ben Taylor and they were good buddies. He gave him (inaudible)

*Q

Oh, I see it, yeah

*A

About 88 years old.

*Q

He gave that to you? Oh wow

*A

And anyhow

*Q

How long were you up there?

*A

A year and they called be back at Lincoln. They called me back at Lincoln and a teacher were retiring. She had been my 8th grade teacher, Ms. Ella the best teacher I had ever had.

*Q

Really?

*A

Yeah

*Q

Did she teach everything or a certain subject?

*A

She taught everything in the 8th grade and she was one that she loved you, you know she would put her hands on you (they don't let) the teachers do that now. You know teachers not a lot of teachers touch children. If she didn't do anything to pull your ears then she went back and did it like that you know you knew that she was playing with you and very (inaudible). Another things she would do was exceptional.

*Q

What?

*A

If you were having difficulty she would invite you to come to her home. She would put you around a table that had a tiffany lamp over it and instruct you. Extra instruction and you wouldn't be the only one there she would have maybe two or three other students there in the evening after school.

*Q

Did you go sometimes?

*A

Oh yeah, I went (inaudible) and she would give you candy

*Q

After band? Is that what you said I thought you caught her after band.

*A

Me loves candy, you'll get into that anyhow

*Q

Ms. Ella, wow that must have been something replacing your favorite teacher.

*A

Yes, she was living like me too. Her picture is in the table in another book.

*Q

Yeah in another book. Let me double check this stuff.

*A

Are you doing alright?

*Q

Yeah Yup we are doing okay there to0. It will click (referring to recorder).

*A

It will?

*Q

Yeah, I think so. I am going to look her up while you are talking, Ms. Ella

*A

Well you get one of the old pictures.

*Q

Okay

*A

Old pictures from (Lincoln inaudible), show her the one where I showed you my self.

*Q

Oh wow that's the picture.

*A

Let me see, Ms. Ella is not on here. The picture I have I had another picture and it is not in here Ms. Ella is not in here. She was a little tiny thing, light skinned person with gray hair and we won't take time for this.

*Q

Okay

*A

I'm going on and on just like I am supposed to (inaudible)

*Q

We won't be choosing that one.

*A

There she is!

*Q

Oh yes there she is. So she was on the faculty then? (referring to a Lincoln faculty photo)

*A

And I am not on this one, see!

*Q

Right, because you replaced her

*A

Yes

*Q

And what was his name? (inaudible)

*A

Rainbow

*Q

Rainbow, okay and it was his daughter Katherine you were friends with

*A

Uhm and this person here Khadijah Chapelle-- she taught second grade. She was teaching second grade when this picture was taken and this lady here was my second grade teacher her name was Mabel Camel and like I told you my mother worked and she knew it. After school she would take me in her hands and take me around town with her where she was going. She lived in Moundsville.

*Q

Oh my, Yeah.

*A

And she would take me like over to a on the island to her dressmakers and the like.

*Q

Is she African American?

*A

Yes

*Q

She looks very light to me her hair looks very...

*A

Yes she had long curly hair, Mabel Camel yes. Now this lady here her hair was curly too but she had it thrown back.

*Q

Good looking group, very good looking distinguished group.

*A

(inaudible) OP Shannon that was my

*Q

Oh, he is the one you replaced.

*A

Uhm, there is my history teacher she (inaudible) she wasn't much of a teacher. You had teachers like that?

*Q

Oh, I did.

*A

Where they'd always find something to do when they should have been teaching.

*Q

...Like preparing or grading

*A

And you put your assignment and reading and chapter something and be able to answer the question after you have (inaudible) finished reading? teaching. I wasn't teaching yet.

*Q

Good football player

*A

I was just busy work

*Q

Yeah

*A

You showed her the little lady

*Q

Right there and there is the one (pointing to the teacher she had just referenced). There is the principal?

*A

Yes, mam, by the faculty

*Q

Yeah, I have the picture of 1943 when you joined, I think you either joined the faculty that year or you were on the faculty when the new Lincoln opened. ?

*A

Yes, you have that picture?

*Q

Yeah I do I have that. They have a website now.

*A

Yes, they have that picture.

*Q

Yeah, they do, let me see. I have given that to you, didn't I Monica?

*Q

Yes, you did

*Q

I have a little version of it now, but I do have a big one to. Let me show you, you have it too, right?

*A

Uhmhhh. I just couldn't find it here today

*Q

You're on the internet!

*A

Uh, a friend of mine sent mine, sent it to me.

*Q

Hearts of gold who wrote that? Lets see, McHenry Jones. He wrote a book *Hearts of Gold*

*A

He was a, I didn't know that,... he was a principal and along with that he started Lincoln.

*Q

He started Lincoln. What did that what back in the 1800s?

*A

Yes

*Q

Yeah I just saw that picture of you. I had a little one here I have a big one somewhere, but I have the little one here. Here's the little one. It's not that clear because it is the pages (printed from the Lincoln website.)

*A

Yeah, that's me right there.

*Q

Yeah, Tidbits?

*A

I was always on the end.

*Q

You always probably were up front. Oh, there is one, there it is, there is the big one, same one, but just bigger so you can see it.

*A

Uhm, yup. There's those Jane Ann Dickson there's her mother right behind her. (inaudible) for her 34th birthday she never talked to me, Jane Anne, and then the mother, Jane Ann was the secretary.

*Q

Oh. Okay, she was the sec the one right beside you?

*A

Yes, and the one next to her was always the first grade teacher. Her name was Helen Dean and she was quite a teacher. The second grade teacher was a (inaudible) she was Williams but she got married and her name was Chapelle. Then, there is that teacher that would baby sit me after school.

*Q

Okay, so she is in the first row? The one on the end

*A

Uhhmm. Yup.

*Q

Do you want to take one of these copies?

*A

I have one.

*Q

You have it somewhere?

*A

Thank you.

*Q

Okay, was that your first year back then with Lincoln? Or, no, did you teach in the old Lincoln too?

*A

Yes.

*Q

Okay.

*A

That's when I came back, when they replaced me the following year, I mean when they placed me, not replaced me. When they placed me the following year they put me in elementary and I took that Ella Jones spot and she was a fifth grade teacher.

*Q

Oh, okay.

*A

Those 5th graders taught me a lesson! They taught me I couldn't teach them --they taught me that fifth graders know everything! They could tell you whether the moon was green or white or what. They had all the information and they know good words and bad words. Occasionally they would spit out one and of course Phonics was quite the thing at that time.

*Q

Yes

*A

And, so, I would review the phonics with them when we were doing the ‘s’ ‘h’ I said, do you know what one we are just going to eliminate? And one of them raises his hand, and I said, now what would you like to say? You mean, and he said it I said that is exactly what I am talking about that we are not going to even talk about that. He said S-H- I -T. They like to shock you!

*Q

Yeah

*A

They like to shock you Ooh. If they had an electric current that they could they would probably use it on you.

*Q

That was your teaching experience!

*A

Very inventive! Very creative!

*Q

Do you think that cause they are fifth graders or cause that was your first full year of teaching?

*A

Oh I had taught sophomores for two years.

*Q

Oh.

*A

And, they are a merit group that you have to watch.

*Q

No doubt you have to watch

*A

Today all of them, even the elementary, and when I say one through twelve, . That’s when I am getting to, sometime you have to watch the preschoolers too! He (Tommy, her nephew) said he had to put one little boy off the bus for (inaudible) and he had to explain to his parents why. I think they would understand why he couldn’t ride the bus. He said, ‘ not on my bus...some of the buses, but not mine because he just won’t stop using those words.

*Q

Yup. we see it we see it in preschool.

*A

You see it in preschool?

*Q

Uhmmm, yeah

*A

They pick that stuff up because you know sometimes that they hear it at home

*Q

From TV, music...

*A.

Yes

*Q

Yes, people are informal.

*A

Too informal!

*Q

Then, they pickup, sometimes they just say it and go on, you know, they just say it like they are saying everything else... they just say it and go on.

*A

I wouldn't like it!

*Q

And then sometimes?

*A

I wouldn't like to be teaching today

*Q

You don't think so?

*A

No! I am sorry. Junior High and High right now those little girls I am telling you they would shock me to death now because it shows your breast now.

*Q

Yeah

*A

That's very prevalent on the TV now.

*Q

It is.

*A

They're showing anything on TV now, where the women in it, she doesn't have her low front.

*Q

When you were a student and then when you were teaching did you have strict dress codes? Like what you wore ?

*A

Yes.

*Q

To school?

*A

Yes, yes.

*Q

And what the students wore to school?

*A

Yes, what they couldn't wear.

*Q

What they couldn't wear.

*A

I had lunch with the Karnell girl. she wanted to wear... she wanted to introduce slacks into the classroom, and, you know, I didn't approve of it. I said this is a classroom it wasn't a playground.

*Q

I was in class that day.

*A

Really?

*Q

Yeah, I was. I think I was behind Jennifer Karnell, but you didn't see me—just her. I knew that her mom was a teacher

*A

Yes.

*Q

Oh, you got her?

*A

and I got her!

*Q

You got her, I said oh my, I am glad because the rules had changed.

*A

You remember what I said don't you? That this wasn't a playground.

*Q

Yeah, that you knew the rules had changed, but you didn't like that in your class.

*A

Uhm

*Q

You didn't like that in your class that women wore pants.

*A

(laughing) I ended up wearing them myself!

*Q

It was a big change though; it was a big change it was. Until I was in 8th grade, even public school I always had to wear dresses to school and probably for you all the way through and until that year, I guess that was about 1970s

*A

Was it?

*Q

Yeah around 1970 I was in the 8th grade. Yeah, the rules changed and the kids started wearing pants.

*A

Ahh (inaudible) you see (laughing to Monica). I was a dictator.

*Q

You weren't, in any other class but yours. But you wanted us to take education seriously.

*A

Well, let me tell you,

*Q

That's why I remember you talking about.

*A

Yes I had a remedial class that I will tell you about. This one young woman, remember how I also had a rule, no chewing gum?

*Q

Uhm Uhm

*A

No, chewing, because I wasn't going to talk to anybody that was had a muffled sounding voice. I wanted a natural sound because that is the way I identified you to an extent by the sound of your voices. Sometimes when I would be working on the board with my back to the classroom

*Q

Right.

*A

If somebody said something, asked me a question, I could tell you who it was by the sound of their voice. Often they thought I had eyes in the back of my head!

*Q

Right because you could!

*A

It was just that I knew the sound of voices.

*Q

Now I remember our class was packed. You had probably thirty students

*A

Yes.

*Q

...in there for of 8th graders

*A

Uhm

*Q

You mean (inaudible) you in English or language arts or math our class was (inaudible)

*A

Did I have any student teachers that year?

*Q

No, we just had you all year.

*A

Aww shucks. I thought maybe you were in that class with my first student teacher. He was Jim Sowers.

*Q

I don't remember him

*A

Ahh, boy, he came the year of To Sire with Love.

*Q

Oh (inaudible)

*A

Yes

*Q

Every body loved that movie. Every body was talking about it.

*A

When he took over my classroom,I could go anywhere and leave him with it.

*Q

Was he African American?

*A

Yes

*Q

Oh, okay. Did you ever see that movie (to Monica?)

*A

No I haven't.

*Q

It was big!

*A

Oh, I'm telling you and he was really good. And he could, he would sometimes quote, make quotes and everything and write them on the board.

*Q

Now, did he come from West Liberty, or from Institute?

*A

He came from West Liberty.

*Q

West Liberty then? At the time you went you college, could you have gone to West Liberty but you chose to go to Institute?

*A

Yes. No I couldn't have gone.

*Q

You couldn't have gone to West Liberty?

*A

No. I couldn't have gone to West Virginia University either.

*Q

Oh, so it was segregated?

*A

Segregated! I could only go to West Virginia State or Bluefield State.

*Q

Both down state.

*A

I could have gone up in Pittsburgh but I didn't want to go up there. I wanted to stay right here and have myself a ball.

*Q

Well tell us about those years when you were at Lincoln and then the desegregation and you ended up at Warwood, when did all that come about?

*A

Ugh...

*Q

Can you remember?

*A

Yes, and I would make a quote for you. Mr. McHenry said that it would be one of the worse things that could happen with blacks and wisdom, plus they knew what they were getting. You know the background. It was one other school and it was a black school, and it was catholic school that some of the blacks went to.

*Q

I think the background of the teachers at Lincoln surpassed the teachers in the white schools, so you can see it

*A

Yes. Well he was looking from the stand point of mentors. That's what missing today. With very few black teachers being hired.

*Q

We have very few students, black students, (in teacher education).

*A

I noticed [inaudible] part time. Now you know and I know in a choral group you should have more than one black student, background faces. I seen that group and I didn't see a black child in the group.

*Q

In the classes?

*A

In the chorus!

*Q

Oh, in the chorus.

*A

A number of things they do go out for, the forensics occasionally [inaudible]. And sports and they fell in.

*Q

Give me a minute. I can't believe you remember that about Jennifer (Inaudible).

*A

Oh yes. She remembers it too.

*Q

Does she?

*A

Her mother went to the same doctor that I go to. Dr. Mercer.

*Q

Oh yeah. Oh yeah. He went to Warwood, didn't he?

*A

Yeah, that's him.

*Q

Mr. Mercer, the band director's son. Is he a doctor?

*A

Yes. Bill Mercer.

*Q

Bill, I would have never remembered that name. He was a nice kid.

*A

Yes. I stepped out of the room one day and he went up and got my grade book off my desk.

*Q

He did? Bill Mercer did?

*A

Uh huh. Of course, I really turned loose on him. You know I did.

*Q

(Inaudible) What was he thinking?

*A

I said, "Now, you wanted to see your grade." I said, "But you saw everybody else's grade. If you had asked me, I would have shown you yours with the others covered."

*Q

Right.

*A

And.

*Q

(Inaudible: talking to someone else in the background).

*A

There's your ink pen on the floor. And, um, now to get back to the classroom. Now you want me at Lincoln?

*Q

Yeah, you were at Lincoln and things were changing. Did you work with McHenry?

*A

I worked under.

*Q

OK. He was, I thought he (inaudible)

*A

I worked under McHenry and Bowmer was the assistant superintendent at that time.

*Q

OK, and then when.

*A

Bowmer would come and visit the classroom more than McHenry. (Inaudible). Anyhow, it was quite a change and we were very concerned about where we would be placed. It was understood that we would be placed in the school.

*Q

It was understood? That was going to be one of my questions.

*A

Yes, it was understood that the teachers at Lincoln would be placed into a school. Not everybody at the same school.

*Q

Right. Were the students going to all different schools also?

*A

They had an option to either stay at Lincoln for another year before they moved us out or go to another school.

*Q

What did they do?

*A

Some went and some stayed because I somehow or other I was involved with the seniors that year. I don't remember why though. For their senior prom they decided they didn't want to have a prom because it wouldn't be large enough because they only had about 15 seniors at the time. Others were gone and juniors, only a certain number of juniors. So we decided that we'd work and get money together to take a trip, and we took a trip to Washington, D.C.

*Q

Wow.

*A

Yeah and toured, and I took them and Mr. Kinny (?) went along with me to chaperone the boys. And we got up and we went on a train, a sleeper.

*Q

Wow, that's fabulous.

*A

And we had a good time doing that. The kids enjoyed it very much. And we got a bus when we got into Washington and we toured.

*Q

The monuments?

*A

Oh yes. And the kids enjoyed that. A couple of them had been in Washington before but they liked going back. In fact, they contacted relatives or acquaintances (Inaudible) and some of them came down. (Inaudible). We didn't stay at a hotel or anything; we came back the same day.

*Q

Oh ,OK.

*A

It was just an overnight thing. It wasn't an overnight; we were back home, traveled overnight.

*Q

That's a great trip. I think to go by train. That in itself is an experience.

*A

Yes.

*Q

Were the students worried? Were they excited about going to different schools? You said the faculty were a little bit concerned.

*A

The children were excited, yes.

*Q

The children were excited?

*A

Yes. For instance, Tommy was in elementary and he would have been with me the following year but he went to Clay school.

*Q

Right. And that's in Wheeling?

*A

Mmm, hmm. He went to Clay school for his fifth grade.

*Q

Yeah, cause I think you said you had his older sister.

*A

Yes, Carol.

*Q

Carol, yeah. You told me that on the phone.

*A

I had his older sister and the second girl. She's out in California now. Her name is Sarah Jane; she's named after her mother. We call her Sis.

*Q

Still? To this day you call her Sis?

*A

Yes, I call her Sis. And she's out there, and she's married to a doctor and I think she moved recently. She lives in San Francisco and she has a business in a gallery. She worked in modeling for a while and lived all over the world you might say.

*Q

Oh, my gosh, modeling and then married a physician (Inaudible). Does she ever come back to visit?

*A

Yeah, she's, the first thing she wanted to do, and I was out at Peterson's in rehab and she came here to see about me.

*Q

Ahhhh.

*A

"Aunt Eileen, I'll clean out your closet for you." I said, "Don't you touch nothing!" It's like that, I said. Don't, because I knew most likely she'd throw out something that I like. And I knew she'd, being into models and modeling that she would likely throw this away and maybe that was my favorite thing. You never know.

*Q,

You are a beautiful dresser. You are a beautiful dresser.

*A

I always try to look nice.

*Q

You do.

*A

My mother trained me from a little girl. I couldn't go across the street to the drug store unless I was dressed.

*Q

Oh.

*A

And see I had that in me when I pulled that thing up.

*Q

On Jennifer?

*A

Mmm, hmm. That was in me.

*Q

It was. It was part of who you are. You teach who you are, so. So the kids were excited to go to the various schools?

*A

Yes.

*Q

Were you excited for them?

*A

Yes I was.

*Q

Worried or?

*A

I was somewhat worried but I was also excited. I just wondered how they would get along, whether they would respond well or not.

*Q

And then what happened with you and your friends who were teaching there? You went to Warwood, right? How did that happen?

*A

I don't know how it happened but I got along fine.

*Q

OK, yeah, you didn't ask to go to Warwood, they just said you're here, you're there?

*A

Yes.

*Q

OK. I thought maybe you wanted to come teach us. I didn't know.

*A

No, no, I didn't select you. They put me there.

*Q

And you were happy to have a job?

*A

Yes. Then when I got there and I had so much help and the teachers took me out to a place over in Ohio for dinner and everything. Treat me so nice. I got all kinds of treats.

*Q

So they welcomed you?

*A

Welcomed me like (Inaudible). Like I said I had those two students that were taking care of me had me "Don't do this, Miss Miller. You do this this way and that way and the other way." They had me all lined up.

*Q

And then you might have had some students who you might have had at Lincoln already anyway?

*A

No.

*Q

So, none of the Clemont kids...they hadn't gone down to Lincoln?

*A

Some did.

*Q

The Clemonts?

*A

I had the Clemonts, yes. But I hadn't had the Joneses.

*Q

Oh yeah, the Jones. (Inaudible). And the Foys.

*A

I hadn't had any of the Foys. They were too young.

*Q

They were too young, yeah.

*A

The Foys. There was Teddy, which was the oldest one. He ended up being a manager out here at the Krogers at one time.

*Q

No kidding. Teddy Foy did.

*A

He's dead now.

*Q

Already?

*A

Uh huh.

*Q

Oh my gosh. And I think there was Leroy. He was closer to my sister, one of my sister's ages.

*A

Leroy was something else. Let me tell you what he did. Before the school opened, he went on the property of the school and got in the locker.

*Q

They had tall lockers back then. (to Monica)

*A

Uh huh. Leroy, he was just a little fellow.

*Q

Yeah.

*A

A seventh grader. Got in the locker. They found him. They did, but he was in that locker. Mr. Phipps was in charge then.

*Q

He was the principal?

*A

I believe. Who was your principal?

*Q

Mr. Martin.

*A

Mr. Martin?

*Q

His nickname was Rat.

*A

H.G.?

*Q

H.G., H.G. Martin and then after....

*A

And he would sit in my room at noon time.

*Q

What for?

*A

Read my newspaper, the school newspaper that I had delivered. He would read the newspaper. I had the library then; I had the newspaper in it. He'd sit in there and collect, you know I was very sociable.

*Q

Right. Oh yeah.

*A

I got along with him fine, but he made a statement something about blacks one day to Mr. Reed. Phillip Reed was the (former Lincoln) principal that he made this statement to and Mr. Reed worked out of the Board of Education. Something happened. We had a student up there, a black boy, lived with an Italian family. And he was the grandson of the Italian shoe man up there. What was?

*Q

I'm just remembering.

*A

Campetti?

*Q

Oh Campetti, yeah.

*A

I can't think of that boy's last name.

*Q

Yeah, I forgot about the Campettis. Yeah.

*A

They had this little colored boy who was mixed.

*Q

OK, so it was Campetti's son?

*A

Grandson.

*Q

Grandson, oh grandson, so his daughter had married or had a baby with a black.

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

And he was going to Warwood?

*A

And he did something; I don't know what it was. And Mr. Martin made a statement to and Mr. Reed (Inaudible) and Mr. Martin would always come to me and tell me he did something wrong. "Miss Miller I did (Inaudible)" And I said, "Oh you shouldn't have done that." I told him the same thing about that. I said, "What did Mr. Reed say?" "He said there's a better way of saying it, you should have used other words."

*Q

Is Mr. Reed black?

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

And he said that to Mr. Martin.

*A

There's a better of putting it.

*Q

That's a gentle way to say it.

*A

Mmm, hmm. So he figured that he was angry. But he didn't jump all over him and knock him down or anything. He just made that statement.

*Q

So when they welcomed you to Warwood and you felt pretty comfortable there.

*A

Oh yes.

*Q

I didn't have Mr. Phipps, but certainly Mr. Martin and then I forget the guy's name after that.

*A

Mr. Thomas?

*Q

Oh, Mr. Thomas. Wasn't he a guidance counselor or something?

*A

He was the guidance counselor and he became the principal out at Triadelphia.

*Q

Oh, Triadelphia, oh that's right. He left to go to Tridelphia. Yeah, Mr. ...

*A

Chenowith.

*Q

Chenowith? Um, I think it was just Mr. Martin and I didn't know if, he retired. Let me see if I, I'm gonna cheat. I'm gonna look in my yearbook and see who was the principal that year. I think I found you all in that back of this one. Yeah. Blake. Frank Blake.

*A

Yes, yes.

*Q

He had an accent. He was from southern West Virginia.

*A

Was he from southern West Virginia?

*Q

He said, "There's a far in the tar." And we'd be like "What happened?" And he was trying to say there's a "fire in the tower!"

*A

He was down around Moundsville and that area.

*Q

Oh, is that where he was from? Oh, I thought he was from way down (southern WV).

*A

People down there now related to him.

*Q

Oh, yeah, yeah. And the Covers, oh and what was the, there you are teaching. (as we flipped through a yearbook.)

*A

Teaching?

*Q

Yeah, they have pictures of the faculty, and they have you teaching at the lectern here.

*A

Oh, let me tell you about that lectern. One day I was giving the spelling words and you give the word in a sentence. I was taking care of my mother at that time; my mother had Alzheimer's.

*Q

Oh, my mother did too.

*A

Did she?

*Q

Mmm, hmm. She passed away from it.

*A

Mmm, hmm, my mother did too. Anyhow, I stayed up all night with her and I was trying to make it. This class was right after lunch, and I'm standing up there at the podium giving out these words. I don't remember what the word was, but whatever it was, I gave a sentence that didn't go along with it. And you want to know what? I had fallen asleep standing up!

*Q

Oh, my goodness.

*A

And the kids realized it but they didn't say anything. They didn't laugh or anything. They just looked at me. When the bell rang and they left, this one little boy looked around the side of the door: "Goodnight, Miss Miller," he said. Somebody had to get me, you understand. Let me know that they knew what happened!

*Q

And that's the day they took your picture for the yearbook.

*A

No, I don't think so.

*Q

Goodnight, Miss Miller.(laughing)

*A

Goodnight, Miss Miller. And I was ready to go to bed to tell you the truth. They had changed things around and moved the high school library down to where they had the auditorium. And up where they had the stage at the auditorium was the teachers' lounge. We had it all fixed up and everything, so Dorthea Holman was the librarian at the time. Morrochi was the superintendent at the time and he came to visit me because he had done his practice work at Lincoln.

*Q

Oh, he had?

*A

Not at Lincoln, at Warwood under Miss, oh what was her name? How could I forget the math teacher's name? The woman.

*Q

Um, Ziedler?

*A

Ziedler.

*Q

I had her.

*A

You did? Well, he did his practice work under her. From (Inaudible). So he was well acquainted with me too because he always liked to come into my room and read my newspaper just like Mr. Martin did. At noon time as a student teacher. And sometimes, just talk to me; get a little snack from me, a cookie or whatever. He was a student teacher and made himself right at home. He was awful nice.

*Q

Did you like him as a superintendent?

*A

A lot. Always come and see me, but that day I didn't want to see him. I told him I had some very important things to do and please excuse me. I went down to the library and he probably thought I was gonna run off something or something in there, and I told Dorthea, I said, "Don't let him come back into the teachers' lounge." I said, "When he comes in here, don't let him come back in the teachers' lounge. I'm going back and take a nap. Now, you be sure to wake me up if I don't come out when the bell rings." And I let her know that I had been asleep. I went back there and had a good nap.

*Q

You needed one. If you're standing up teaching. Yeah.

*A

It's a wonder I didn't fall into the stand there, but I didn't. But I gave out that sentence wrong; I don't know whether it was like an episode and I talked about the moon or what. But if there was a (inaudible) and they get me while I was asleep so you know it must have been bad. It wasn't related at all.

*Q

I think you probably taught better in your sleep than some people taught when they were awake.

*A

Well, I shocked the kids anyhow.

*Q

Yeah, we didn't sleep in your class. I can tell you that. We were wide awake.

*A

I know. You know what my teacher, the pretty teacher, told me when I first began teaching in her classroom? She said you won't have any trouble keeping children's attention.

*Q

You did not.

*A

And one little boy sitting next to the window threw his textbook out the window.

*Q

At Warwood?

*A

In the classroom where I was doing my practice work. And she was sitting in the back of the room observing me, and we were in a building on the third floor. I said, "You threw your book out the window." And I said, "I tell you what you do, you go down and get it. I'll give you so many minutes to get back up here." And I clocked him and he was back there. He came back.

*Q

And he didn't do that again.

*A

No, he didn't cause he thought he was gonna be without a textbook. Nuh uh, not in my class. Anyhow, I enjoyed my children but I didn't let them pull too much over me. And I loved them. I would feed them. And I would give them favors on the holidays. Did you ever get a favor from me?

*Q

You would ask a friend of mine, I looked up her name, I think it was Carla Leeper, to do, cause on our lunch break we might walk down to the Warwood Plaza and get something there, and you would ask her to pick something up for you and then you would give her, and then I was her friend, and you would give us a little something for doing that. But I knew that you were asking us so that you could give us something; you would just make it look like we were doing you a favor.(Inaudible).

*A

Feeding. I'm feeding you.

*Q

You were just making it look like we were doing something for you but we knew too, and we were kids. We were very happy. One time the quarters that you gave, you asked her to

buy something and she bought it and then a little something for us, and I don't know if we were gonna get that quarter or what, but they had those conveyor belts that the groceries would go on and that quarter dropped and it went back in that conveyor belt and then we thought we were gonna have to, I thought we were gonna have to pay for it because we lost the quarter. It got eaten by the machine. And she said, "No, I'm telling her," and I'm like, "You can't tell her, you can't tell" She told you and you gave I think both of us quarters, I don't know. I thought she's so rich she's given us all this money.

*A

No, you had done something nice for me so I wouldn't scold you or anything.

*Q

No, no you didn't but I thought, you can't tell that to a teacher. She said, "Yes, you can. Watch. I'll talk to her." She talked to you and I learned a lot that day. She just told you what happened; it wasn't a big thing. I was always afraid of getting in trouble.

*A

No, it wasn't a big thing. No big thing.

*Q

No big thing. No big thing. Yeah. And you were telling me a story on the phone that you had, your classroom when I had you was right above the band room.

*A

Oh yes. Did I tell you that?

*Q

Yeah, but I want you to tell me again.

*A

Alright. Every September I lost my voice because of that band under me. Talking over a 100 piece band practicing was not fun in the ...

*Q

We had the best band in the state. We had a really good band.

*A

That's right. Good band. Good director and everything. My doctor's father. Anyhow, I told the kids once about five years after I had suffered so, I said, "Bring any noise maker you want when you come to school tomorrow and bring, put them in my room." They brought drums; they brought tubs, buckets, and horns, everything that would make noise. So I let them put them in the room. When that fifth period class came and that band struck up band, I said, "OK kids, let's go, one, two, three." And boy we hit it. And all that noise and the band downstairs making its noise. Next thing I knew Mercer was upstairs peeping in my window on the door. He peeped but he didn't say anything. He went on back downstairs. I don't know; I told the kids to stop cause I didn't want him to bring the principal.

*Q

Yeah. He figured it out, what you were up to.

*A

Mmm, hmm. I made my point. After that they never practiced under me again.

*Q

Oh, they'd go out marching somewhere, take it to the street.

*A

Mmm, hmm. Yeah, yeah.

*Q

Yeah. I didn't know that part of the story.

*A

Yeah.

*Q

You didn't say a word.

*A

No.

*Q

You didn't complain.

*A

And the principal didn't say a word, either. Nobody said a word to me. But Mercer got back at me. When I retired in '83 I went to ...

*Q

Well, he had already retired.

*A

Yeah, he had already retired and he was president of the group.

*Q

Oh, of the symphony?

*A

Of the OCAR.

*Q

Oh, retired teachers.

*A

Uh huh.

*Q

Ahhhh.

*A

Never called me Eileen. What was that woman's name on TV that was nanny to the students that was on this? Uh, one name.

*Q

The nanny to the?

*A

Yeah, she was the nanny.

*Q

I can't remember.

*A

That's what he called me, her name all the time. But she was (Inaudible). I can't think of the name he called me now, but he never called me Eileen. Never called, or Miss Miller; he didn't ever call me Miss Miller. And the group would look when he would call me that and I would answer because I knew who he was talking. I knew who he was talking to. And the group would always look how she know who he wants. But that was the background.

*Q

I'm going to let you ask some questions if you want. Can we ask some more? Are you doing OK?

*A

Oh sure, I'm fine.

*Q (A different interviewer)

I wanted to know a lot about when segregation happened. And did you want to switch schools? Did you prefer to switch schools or it just didn't matter as long as you had a job?

*A

As long as I had a job, I could teach anywhere and it didn't matter to me who I taught, you understand?

*Q

OK. Yeah.

*A

As long as I was teaching. Let's put it like that. And a young woman when I was teacher of the year, the young man that interviewed me when he wrote the article in the paper, he said if she was teaching, had to teach on the sidewalk, he believed I would teach.

*Q (original interviewer)

You should have been teacher; yeah you were definitely a fabulous teacher. There isn't anybody who had you who didn't learn a lot. A lot.

*A

Well. Did I make you learn that poem?

*Q

Wait a minute.

*A

Parts of speech poem?

*Q

Parts? Oh, no. Can you say it?

*A

No, I can't remember it now.

*Q

I can't remember a parts of speech poem, but I do pretty good with it. What book is it in?

*A

This one right here.

*Q

The first one or the second one?

*A

The box.

*Q

Oh ok. (Inaudible). Oh. The Flowering Moments of the (Inaudible). Practical English. Context, elimination of speech (Inaudible), pronunciation, enunciation, effective expression, exercises. Oh, this is interesting. I don't remember that one. The parts of speech poem.

*A

And it was in (Inaudible) and they make (Inaudible).

*Q

Well. Oh my goodness. This is one of the questions I had: How did you teach all of us English and grammar when here we are from the country and I was one of the country kids and we're all from this kind of outskirts here of Appalachia? You had your work cut out for you.

*A

Mmm, hmm. Yes. The background was quite different from what I was, let me see this.

*Q

Oh sorry.

*A

Oh, I'm taking up time again.

*Q

That's OK. I'll look through it. Maybe I'll find it. You said it was a parts of speech poem? (looking through materials on the table)

*A

Yes. It was a poem.

*Q

OK, I'll take a look or maybe. I'll put this here so I don't want to mess everything up. But I'll put it back in here. I'll put it right here so you can have your arm rest.

*Q (2nd interviewer)

Did your changing schools after your desegregation, did it affect your teaching methods for the children or did you use the same methods at both?

*A

Same methods, basic methods. It was all basic. Now some things I did differently like I was in a very, very highly populated neighborhood where you had people of different backgrounds. When I say backgrounds I'm speaking of nationalities.

*Q (original)

At which school?

*A

Huh? At Warwood. We had different nationalities, backgrounds. In fact, we did a tree with recipes on it of different nationalities. You didn't do that tree?

*Q

I can't remember.

*A

On the bulletin board I had to put up.

*Q

Probably did. Yeah, cause we ...

*A

I didn't do it every year. I always did something different the following year, but I would have different projects that I liked to do and had the children help me with my bulletin boards at times.

*Q (2nd interviewer)

You said you didn't have experiences with negative actions or with comments or you know.

*A

No.

*Q

When you moved to Warwood, but did you know anyone who did or did you know of anyone who had a hard time finding a job after the desegregation?

*A

No.

*Q

So everyone you know?

*A

Everybody was placed.

*Q

Oh OK. That's a good thing to know.

*A

Everybody was placed in a position. Not necessarily their background or what they were prepared for, but they were placed in a teaching position or just like our principal became an associate out in the board office. Philip Reed.

*Q

Oh, OK.

*A

He went out to the board office.

*Q (original interviewer)

So he had been the principal at Lincoln and he went to administration?

*A

Yes.

*Q

So everybody was placed? Did they keep their jobs overtime?

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

OK.

*A

Who did you have down at elementary?

*Q

Mr. Smith was the principal.

*A

Yes. Did you have a colored teacher down there?

*Q

Oh no, no, no I didn't. Was there a colored teacher or black teacher (placed at the elementary)?

*A

Yes. Down in the elementary-- That Mrs. Ross that I told you about.

*Q

Oh, she went to Warwood Elementary?

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

No, I had a Mrs. Nortemann, Mrs. Mannbeck, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. France, Mrs. Karnell, and Miss Bishoff.

*A

Bishoff.

*Q

Yeah, Miss Bishoff. Yeah, she was social studies. And then I came to the junior high.

*A

Now you know they had the same principal at the junior high as they have at the elementary up there now.

*Q

They have the same principal at the elementary; oh it's the same one for the whole school?

*A

Mmm, hmm. For the whole building. There's two buildings there now.

*Q

And did you teach at the new building? Did you move from one?

*A

No, no, no, no, no. I left Warwood up on Warwood Avenue in '83. I left up there in '83.

*Q

Oh, it was on the avenue still?

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

Oh, OK, I wasn't sure when Warwood High went to Park.

*A

Junior high.

*Q

Yeah. Oh, the junior high stayed there even when the high school consolidated.

*A

When the high school consolidated, did you move?

*Q

I had already graduated.

*A

Oh, you had?

*Q

Yeah. I was.

*A

What's your class?

*Q

'74. 1974. Yeah.

*A

Isn't that the year that they?

*Q

I think it was '76. It was a year or two more and then they went to Park. (to Monica) Wheeling High, Triadelphia, and Warwood consolidated into a school.

*Q (2nd interviewer)

Oh, OK.

*Q

And it became Park High School, Wheeling Park High School for 9th through 12th grade. But the junior high stayed on Warwood Avenue.

*A

Right.

*Q

And then later it became part of the elementary ground and (inaudible) moved down where the elementary was.

*A

That's right.

*Q

We haven't driven up there but I think we're gonna take a drive up so I can show her.

*A

Yeah.

*Q

It's just a couple of miles. It's all right here.

*Q (2nd interviewer)

Oh OK.

*A

They have some sort of school in where we were located.

*Q

Yes, West Liberty something. An extension, office.

*A

Yeah, it's an extension or, um, they do some kind of remedial thing in there, too.

*Q

Oh, OK.

*A

I believe.

*Q

OK. I haven't been in there since I graduated, I don't think.

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q (2nd interviewer)

Did you have any like professional development training provided by the school to help you get acclimated to being at a new school, integrated school? Did they have anything?

*A

No, not per say. But I did keep two certifications by going every five years and renewing one or the other of my elementary or secondary certifications. That's the reason I never got a Master's and I should have.

*Q (original interviewer)

Oh you think?

*A

Yes. But I would have had to select a field.

*Q

Oh, and you didn't want to do that?

*A

Uh huh.

*Q

Couldn't decide?

*A

Uh huh. No. Which I preferred because I enjoyed doing both.

*Q

But then a Master's what you would have made more money or you would have?

*A

Yes, I would have made more money.

*Q

Did you get your continuing ed from Wheeling Jesuit or West Liberty or where did you?

*A

I would do, I needed to go back down to State, which I enjoyed doing.

*Q

Uh oh, here we go again.

*A

Or I would go to West Lib.

*Q

OK, so then eventually you could attend West Liberty. It seems like if you live in this area it's the...

*A

I did some work at an extension of West Lib. They had an extension class at night down on Chapman Street.

*Q

How did you have time to do all that when you're taking two buses to work, teaching us all day, two buses home?

*A

And not only teaching all day, sometimes I taught adults at night to get their G.E.D.

*Q

Did you?

*A

Yes. Now that's when I had a variety of people, a mixture of people.

*Q

Yeah.

*A

Of nationalities and they would get their G.E.D. and keep my phone busy all summer telling me whether they got their papers.

*Q

Oh, OK. They'd give you a call to tell you if they passed or not.

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

Where did you teach that at? Downtown?

*A

Downtown.

*Q

At Warwood? Downtown?

*A

First, I taught at Webster.

*Q

Uh huh. On the Island?

*A

No.

*Q

Oh wait, Webster, no, sorry.

*A

Down in South Wheeling. And then I taught at Richey.

*Q

Oh, that's South Wheeling, too.

*A

Mmm, hmm. It was all down in South Wheeling, and we would have doughnuts at night.

*Q

Lots of nationalities down in South Wheeling.

*A

Yes, ma'am. And they came and by the way I was not driving. I didn't begin driving until I was 50 years old.

*Q

Really? Why did you wait so long?

*A

Cause I thought I was too stupid to drive.

*Q

You?

*A

And I rode the buses. Or the Farris sisters would pick me up. They lived out on Route 40.

*Q

OK. And you lived here and?

*A

And I lived here and stand out here waiting on my bus. If they passed by at the time I was standing waiting or I'd catch the bus over on Seventh Street downtown. I'd get off the bus up the hill here and down the hill and then off the bus and walk over and wait for the Warwood bus. One time a man drove by and had a little boy in his car. "Come on Miss Miller, I'll take you." Mr. Phipps was teaching then, I mean was the principal. I got in that man's car and rode up there and got out of that car, Mr. Phipps saw me get out. He was like, "Who was that?" I said, "I don't know, but he picked me up and said he'd take me to school."

*Q

Oh, you didn't know him?

*A

No. Mr. Phipps said, "Don't you ever do that again." He laid me up. He said you could have rode on past the school here. I said, "But there was a little boy in the car." He said, "So?"

*Q

Yeah. So, who taught you how to drive?

*A

The fellow who rented the apartment next door.

*Q

Oh, OK. Right beside you here.

*A

Mmm, hmm.

*Q

So, then did you get a car?

*A

Yes.

*Q

And then you drove back and forth to work.

*A

A little brown Betty I got.

*Q

A little brown Betty.

*A

He got me a fender bender. The fellow that taught me to drive was a Ford Motor Company test driver. He was living over there. I said, "You think I ..."

(Phone rings) Now, I don't know these people so I'll just do them like that. Anyhow.

*Q

Yes, I'm sorry.

*A

That's a telemarketer. Anyhow, he taught me to drive. He said, "You know what? You've been driving all awhile." Because I wasn't that (Inaudible) to learning. He'd take me up to Oglebay Park.

*Q

It came in handy for lots of things

*A

Uh, and let me go around up there where the museum is .

*Q

Yeah

*A

and then down the hill.

*Q

The mansion...

*A

down through Schenk Lake

*Q

Yeah, you can't hurt anybody too much up there. Its not too busy

*A

I learned he taught me during the summer and I drove to school. He got me a little brown buggy (inaudible) drove the scooter I didn't have any trouble. One day when it was snowing I ended up on the side walk up on First Street, right up from the right across from the (inaudible).

*Q

Oh yeah oh yeah. Yeah that would be hard to do right there.

*A

Yes, the snow was so deep. He hadn't trained me about snow, said that all I had to do was put in second gear and I would be safe from sliding.

*Q

yes

*A

So he told me that when I got home and I told him I ended up on the sidewalk. I said I nearly bounced back onto the truck because

*Q

on the Mayflower [should have been Tower]

*A

on the Mayflower

*Q

the semis were right there. Yeah, it's hard to learn how to drive in snow when you learned how to drive in the summer you have to practice it.

*Q

Well I have two more questions, were you part of the teaching program (inaudible)?

*Q

were you part of any?

*A

No, but after I'm under the, you should always belong to the teachers, not union, but the teachers organization

*Q

yeah so you were

*A

Ohio County

*Q

Yeah, and that is the county that we live in? That is an Ohio county?

*A

Uhm

*Q

So that was part of a retirement group you were part of?

*A

and also the state government retirement, it's called the consolidation.

*Q

Yeah and were there teacher organizations like you would have the names of them? We call it now National Education Association

*Q

Yeah it was identified National Association of Teachers Brightly Colored Schools and American Teacher Association

*A

By the way talking about colored schools, I had been honored to receive recognition as the last teacher living from Lincoln school.

*Q

Congratulations

*A

They took me down to (inaudible) and we spent the day down there and met a lot of quite a few retired teachers from Brightly Colored schools.

*Q

Really?

*A

Uhm

*Q

When was that?

*A

In September about four years ago now, but,

*Q

So it was during the anniversary of Brown versus Board of Education?

*A

Yes that's when it was

*Q

Yeah

*A

You know about that?

*Q

Oh, yeah I teach about it and I don't know as much about it as I do in the past month when we were researching Lincoln and your background. Then Monica is working on getting some more things and we are like oh yeah I didn't know all this

*A

Uhm

*Q

I am so embarrassed to tell you when I moved here I didn't even realize that the schools had been segregated. I always went to school....

*A

and that was it

*Q

and that was it yeah

*A

I knew they were segregated, that we couldn't go to any of the other schools that didn't worry me a bit, but we were having a good time at mine.

*Q

Okay, yeah.

*A

It was real busy at mine

*Q

Yeah

*A

It was fun learning and that was all I was for.

*Q

Do you know what is interesting? When you described Lincoln, it sounds like a blue ribbon.

*A

Oh, I tell you, it was something! And every kid that went there should feel like I do!

*Q

Yeah

*A

They learn triple the amount at Lincoln that they would learn any place else.

*Q

That's what I was going to ask you. I could name the teachers, you know we all can, who we really learned a lot from, you would be, you know, in my top of teachers.

*A

I also I also taught summer school quite often because we didn't always get paid year around.

*Q

So you would have to teach in the summer or anytime but you probably liked to teach or what have you taught? Would you have liked to take the summer off?

*A

I enjoy teaching. I kept going. It didn't burn me one bit. Just like in the evening I come home from school and take a nap before I go teaching at night at down by the way I couldn't drive but Mrs. Yeat could drive she would pick me up she would drive me back here and take me down.

*Q

Was she teaching to?

*A

No, she was learning!

*Q

Oh, she was learning, does she have her license?

*A

Yes

*Q

(inaudible)

*A

and she was driving

*Q

Did you worry about the kids leaving Lincoln knowing they were probably going to go into schools where they weren't going to learn as much?

*A

Yes that worried me when McHenry made such a big deal out of it you know.

*Q

Because he said it too?

*A

They wouldn't get the attention that we gave them

*Q

Well, so now, I don't think from what you describe it, it's quality of teaching. And then I don't know how some of the you had teachers that were like. I never really felt any way different than welcomed everybody into the class. I don't if some schools teachers were prejudice or something and they weren't for you, you know it was turbulent times.

*A

Well there was one teacher, you would be surprised when I tell you who she was, that tried to ignore me, let's put it that bad, your gym teacher.

*Q

Oh Ms. Alice Squib

*A

Yes

*Q

Okay

*A

And my brother was a house painter and he worked for her but she didn't know it until finally she knew it. He would paint her house about every two years.

*Q

That is a lot of paint!

*A

Uhm, I am talking about the outside of her house.

*Q

Did she live in Warwood? I don't know.

*A

No she lived out the pike, that is where he did most of his painting

*Q

Out by where?

*A

Out the pikce?

*Q

Out the pike.

*A

I don't know which street she lived on but I did know that one house. I never went to her house. Now the (inaudible) were the ones that often Miss Lynch.

*Q

Virgina Lynch yeah

*A

Open her arms and everything to me.

*Q

Really?

*A

And I

*Q

They were very (friendly) Virgina Lynch was so (inaudible). But you know Ms. Lynch, Ms. Farris, Ms. Zeigler, Miss Miller you were all single. Were you maybe they went to school at a time to when you couldn't get married?

*A

Emma she taught social studies last name begins with an "H" was it Hardy?

*Q

I don't think I had, I had some other social studies teacher I had Rupich. Thomas I don't think I had Hardy.

*A

You didn't have a woman?

*Q

(inaudible) I think Mr. Rupich, he was history

*A

He was good

*Q

Yeah I think he selling real estate or something now.

*A

Uhm, yeah

*Q

He was a very nice person. He liked a lot of dates...on this day and on this day he would explain what happened (inaudible)

*A

Dates?

*Q

By the fifth date everybody would be ahhh

*A

Well that appraisal was (inaudible)

*Q

What's that?

*A

I said (inaudible) they quit

*Q

Oh

*A

Done

*Q

So Mrs. Squib might have been one who didn't open her arms and

*A

she was

*Q

she was just kind of ignoring

*A

Yeah she was ignoring. Well I knew who she was so I finally let know who I was.

*Q

Tell us, what did you tell her?

*A

I told her I was Henry's sister

*Q

Oh

*A

which was her painter. Oh, yes, and she always replied (inaudible) toning of her voice

*Q

Oh she sons and so they would she would give the hand me downs. Hand me downs were very popular when I was a kid and everybody was swapping clothes. I was the fourth daughter so my clothes were well loved. Be glad you had brothers. Yeah I shouldn't tell you this but I got sent home for having a short skirt; it was too short and I was too embarrassed to tell that it really was just too small that I didn't have (inaudible) clothes.

*A

I can't tell you that girl's name that sat on that basin in the restroom

*Q

and (inaudible) off the wall

*A

Yes

*Q

It wasn't me

*A

no it wasn't you

*Q

I told her I was tall and she said are you the one who sat on the basin cause right beside her room the restroom was right there and so the girls restroom was right there yeah. I don't know her name maybe it was after me because we just keep getting bigger and bigger every generation

*A

It wasn't Lash

*Q

It wasn't Lash

*A

No, it was somebody whose last name started with "F" and I can't think of it.

*Q

I was going to guess Hercules and (inaudible). Oh that's good though you got the last names the first letter of the last name

*A

But, I can't think of it.

*Q

You had a lot of students

*A

Yes I did

*Q

I am impressed by how many names you can pull out. I don't know.

*A

Now I

*Q

I can look in there see if there is any 'F's. It was a girl so

*A

Yeah, it was a girl.

*Q

I don't remember that (inaudible)

*A

Ms. Hathwick she was from in town, Warwood itself

*Q

I was thinking of Hercules

*A

No it wasn't Hercules. I remember a Hercules girl but I can't remember her name, her mother brought her in one day. She was tardy and she brought her up the steps, the back steps and the mother wanted me to let her in the classroom. I said oh no I can't do that, I said she will have to go down stairs to the main office and come in that way. She was about twenty minutes late and I couldn't figure out why she gone up those back steps

*Q

Why did she?

*A

She was a Hercules...tried to get her in without being caught.

*Q

Let's see here is some Fedorkas, was it a Fedorka girl? She was kind of skinny I don't think she could have gone through it

*A

Tall

*Q

She was tall, Tammy Fedorka, she was a tall pretty girl.

*A

Uhm dark hair

*Q

Dark hair, long dark hair

*A

Yes, that's who it was.

*Q

We got her. She was a year behind me she sat on the sink. It must have been that who it was, Tammy Fedorka. Gosh you are good, you are good!

*A

You described her. Fedorka. I knew she was a it was a foreign name.

*Q

Yeah, Yeah.

*A

Cause I couldn't spell it out.

*Q

Do you have anymore questions?

*Q

Any one who was influence to stand in the teacher field or did you just always like it and thats is just what you wanted to do? Did you have any struggles with it?

*A

No, I enjoyed it but I don't think I could teach today

*Q

At 87 you think that would be or just if you were Monica's age would you be going into teaching?

*A

You don't know whether you will come out of the classroom or not today. These kids are getting so they are very violent. In fact, one got violent with me one day. When I said got violent she

*Q

A girl?

*A

Yeah came into the room into a remedial classroom

*Q

At Warwood?

*A

Uhm she came in the room and she was chewing gum, I said you know what my rule is here so put it in the waste basket, on your forehead, on your nose, on your chin, I said just don't stick it under the desk

*Q

Right, I do remember that, do not put it under the desk

*A

I said just take it out of your mouth, but you know my rules. I won't converse with you and I do make a habit of talking to everybody in my classroom everyday, which I did.

*Q

You did uhm

*A

You would talk to me or go to the boards and explain what you were doing or whatever with me every day you would do something with me. And she threw it in the waste basket went back and sat in her seat. I turned around and went to the blackboard and started working on the board to give them their work, to show them what they were going to do. And, all of the sudden out of the blue sky: "you just kiss my ass". I remember turning to the blackboard I said, oh no, I said, we don't use that kind of language in here, I said I tell you what so and so I called her name you go downstairs to Mr. Turnerwits office and tell him what you said. So she got up and she was in this weird (inaudible) she got up, stomped out, slammed the door, and I said "she won't be back in here anymore" to myself. I didn't say it out loud. So a bunch of my class laughed thought I was teasing. By the way, that was fifth grade class too.

*Q

A lot happened in fifth year after lunch

*A

Uhm (inaudible), I called down the (inaudible) by the way I was in the library room they moved me over there from 302.

*Q

Oh they did?

*A

Yeah

*Q

Because the whole time I was there you were right above the band room. I think that was 302 it was on the third floor.

*A

Yeah they moved me from there

*Q

Yeah and the library was down at that time it was at the end of the hall kind of in the middle.

*A

Okay I told you they took the auditorium out and put the library down

*Q

That's right

*A

Alright we had an auditorium and the gym all the time.

*Q

They didn't keep that beautiful auditorium?

*A

Wasn't that auditorium gorgeous, wasn't it?

*Q

Yeah, it was the old, It had the stage up high and curtains go all the way back and a balcony. I thought it was nice.

*A

Miss Lynch was still there too.

*Q

Yeah

*A

And afterwards they took her privilege away from her.

*Q

They did?

*Q

To put her in a different class change of scenery there.

*A

Yes it gave her another source of knowledge not for me anymore. Since you don't like me.

*Q

Very disrespectful I can't believe I can see kids doing that but you were pretty clear on what was acceptable and not acceptable in your class.

*A

And I got that out of hand in the first day or so.

*Q

Right

*A

I let you know what I wasn't for. Rules and regulations with (inaudible) number on.

*Q

A lot of learning went on in there we didn't mess around a lot we were, you were pretty focused and we were all focused.

*A

It's the only way you can hold attention of your class is to keep them busy. One way or the other they were going to participate. Everybody participates and literature remember the literature I would have you read the story and I give you a little check test and discussion.

*Q

Yes, discussion we would act out we did some plays. We acted them out in this room your room wasn't that big had thirty desks in there and thirty kids we all be up along the front acting out you know parts somebody'd be directing you'd be reading or we'd be reading different parts and doing different things it was a good time. You helped to shape my ideas about standardized test what you had to do that in your class the test and I could my sense was you weren't that fond of them.

*A

No because they basically used them on teachers.

*Q

Even then?

*A

Yeah

*Q

Oh it's really bad now.

*A

When I say use them on teachers they measured the teachers.

*Q

By how well the students did on the test?

*A

Yes

*Q

Interesting and that would have been 1970 I had you.

*A

They had been doing that from the time I taught fifth grade.

*Q

At Lincoln?

*A

Yea

*Q

From when you started

*A

Yea

*Q

Did you notice a difference in how your students did at Lincoln as compared to Warwood?

*A

Yes

*Q

Better, worse?

*A

At Warwood they would apply themselves more. I didn't have to fight them over it.

*Q

The students?

*A

Yeah they would jump right in and do it.

*Q

All of the studies, and at Lincoln you had to work harder for most of them to apply themselves?

*A

Yes

*Q

But then you did more once you had their attention?

*A

And it got so they liked it too.

*Q

Oh but you had to teach them how to study and interesting

*A

Now I tell you what because my principal came to me one day and said Miss Miller your students don't reach their level like they should. I said no they don't because I always have to teach what the fourth grade teachers taught. And that was that language arts teacher that I that history teacher that I had had. She was still reading the newspaper and assigning things to the kids. And she wasn't teaching so I had to teach fourth grade level before I could teach fifth grade level and that would leave me in the middle of the fifth grade level stuff.

*Q

When it was time for the testing?

*A

Yes

*Q

So even then we hear that now. That's a theme that we hear now and I can remember taking a test and the reason why I remember is I was a pretty good reader, pretty good student, and you were very careful make sure you have this test it has these numbers, you would (inaudible) the word, read it off and all that we were all set to go because we had to be timed okay, open your book, you know the whole. Very, very structured here you had like thirty of us and I was struggling and I'm looking at kids who I know I can read better and I was just a better student, they're done and they got their book closed and I'm reading and I'm like still trying to do my test and I finally I had to say I think I have the wrong test. And I did I had the tenth or eleventh grade test and we were in eighth grade and but those numbers you read off and you were the same but then when you looked at because I couldn't figure out why I couldn't keep up and then I it was at that point I knew you did not like these tests. Because then I had to come in and you did it for me. You have any words of wisdom for future teachers?

*A

Yes, first keep them occupied. And meet them from the beginning with a source that you say that you're going to like them. I couldn't wait to meet my students?

*Q

Really every year?

*A

Every year I couldn't wait and I meet them with a smile. I'm so glad to see you!

*Q

You did, yeah I was excited to look you up and see because I had good feelings ---very much so.

*A

I'm so happy to see you! You know actually I couldn't wait to get to school first day. (Inaudible) Goodie, goodie school is in session.

*Q

Keep them occupied, be really truly happy to see them, to meet them.

*A

Yes

*Q

Anything else?

*A

Make always be sure that they are understanding what you're teaching. Do you know Lance Tarr?

*Q

I do, he was a year ahead of me in school. I haven't seen him in thirty years but

*A

Well I've seen him recently in fact he came here to get me back on my feet so to speak.

*Q

Is he a therapist or something? No kidding, Lance Tarr?

*A

And he does it well and he said Miss Miller, one thing I have learned and always saying you understand? You understand? You understand?

*Q

Yeah you

*A

Is that clear?

*Q

You did you checked in with us.

*A

Then I'd have you write it out that you understood.

*Q

Yeah we did it all kinds of different ways we would talk, we would write it out and you would call on us, we went to class prepared because you knew

*A

It would work

*Q

Yeah, things were happening. I keep thinking about that room and I don't know how we moved around as much as we did because it was packed. Well, that is good about Lance Tarr. You did a good job at teaching him, you did a good job at teaching a lot of us, all your children. How many children do you have?

*A

Five Thousand

*Q

Five thousand, is that about how many you taught over the years?

*A

That is what I always say. That is just at the top of my head

*Q

To the top of your head, you got five thousand children. Well we thank you, all of your children thank you, you did a good job with us, all your children thank you.

*A

I enjoyed every time every moment of it. I did enjoy every moment of if I got so even with that situation with that little girl I (inaudible). I tell you what I come home sometimes in the evening with papers and I wouldn't eat until I finished marking

*Q

Really?

*A

Yeah I was that dedicated.

*Q

Yeah and you were too excited to see if they got it, if they understood, how they did it. Was that your sign?

*A

That was my sign

*Q

Wow

*A

Anytime you get in the way of eating you got to go

*Q

Very good, very good, very good. I like that quote I like that so much. Is there anything we didn't ask you about that you wanted to tell us?

*A

No

*Q

You might think of things later you can come back and interview you some more or call you

*A

I'd love it

*Q

I'm going to turn this thing off. Thank you so much. Oh my gosh you are quite a lady.