

Fort Hays State University

## FHSU Scholars Repository

---

College of Education One-Room Schoolhouse  
Oral Histories

Archives Online

---

1985

### Interview with Margaret and Bob Rath

Jim Hardy  
*Fort Hays State University*

Margaret Rath

Bob Rath

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.fhsu.edu/ors>

#### Content Disclaimer

The primary source materials contained in the Fort Hays State University Special Collections and Archives have been placed there for research purposes, preservation of the historical record, and as reflections of a past belonging to all members of society. Because this material reflects the expressions of an ongoing culture, some items in the collections may be sensitive in nature and may not represent the attitudes, beliefs, or ideas of their creators, persons named in the collections, or the position of Fort Hays State University.

---

#### Recommended Citation

Hardy, Jim; Rath, Margaret; and Rath, Bob, "Interview with Margaret and Bob Rath" (1985). *College of Education One-Room Schoolhouse Oral Histories*. 39.  
<https://scholars.fhsu.edu/ors/39>

This Audio Recording is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives Online at FHSU Scholars Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Education One-Room Schoolhouse Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of FHSU Scholars Repository.

An Interview with Margaret and Bob Rath

Jim Hardy  
History of American Ed.  
Summer, 1985  
Prof. Miller

Jim: "I'm here. This is Jim Hardy. I'm interviewing Margaret Rath and Bob Rath, here in Morland, Kansas. Today is July 17th, 1985. Margaret taught out here, outside of Morland, at a one room schoolhouse, and I have some questions for her. O.K., we have gone over these a little bit. O.K., Margaret how long did you teach?"

Margaret: "Three years."

Jim: "O.K., and what was your pay?"

Margaret: "Forty-five dollars the first year, and sixty the next and sixty-five the last year. (laughs) It went up. (laughs)"

Jim: "That is a far cry from today's. And how did you say you started out your day?"

Margaret: "We had the flag salute, and we opened it with prayer then. We had 'The Lord's Prayer'."

Jim: "All the kids participated?"

Margaret: "Yes. That was the only church any of them knew anything about."

Jim: "So they were probably just participating unquestionably?"

Margaret: "Uh-huh."

Jim: "What subjects did you teach, and do you remember what order they were?"

Margaret: "I can't recall the order, but we had spelling and reading and arithmetic. Writing, social studies, history and English. And I don't know the order. Uh, writing would be the one thing that the whole school could take... do at the same time, and you didn't have to have a special class, but each other room... each other class had to be a special. I mean, separate. First graders had to have spelling and then second graders and then third."

Jim: "And you said you taught first through sixth grade?"

Margaret: "First through sixth grade, the first year, and then, of course, they went on up then."

Jim: "O.K. Let's see, um, one question is what kind of punishments did you dole out? And you said you didn't have any punishments, but surely you did something?"

Margaret: "Well, they stayed in at recess if they were very naughty, but I never had any very naughty kids."

Jim: "You didn't have to spank them?"

Margaret: "No, I don't ever."

Jim: "You didn't put them in the corner?"

Margaret: "No."

Jim: "You didn't?"

Margaret: "Uh-Uh."

Jim: "You must have had a good group of kids then ?"

Margaret: "They were nice."

Jim: "O.K., um, how did you get your paychecks?"

Margaret: "I went to the clerk of the board, I believe it was."

Jim: "Was there a regular district office, then, that you went to, or you just went to their house?"

Margaret: "To their home. Each one of them were just farmers."

Jim: "O.K., and how often did you meet with the school board?"

Margaret: "Well, not very often, probably at the end of the year, when they talked about rehiring or what."

Jim: " So you weren't required to be there for school board meetings?"

Margaret: "Not ever."

Jim: "Were they held in the school house?"

Margaret: "I think most times they were held in their homes."

Jim: "Oh. O.K. And we talked about this a little bit, also. How did you get your school supplies?"

Margaret: "The school furnished what you had to have, and if we needed anything extra, I got it, I bought it. Or my dad ran the drugstore and if I needed something I borrowed it from them."

Jim: "O.K., how, um, much schooling did you have to have in order to teach?"

Margaret: "Well, I had a three year state certificate and it took one year of college to get it, but some others could go, I knew of some who just took tests."

Jim: "And never went to college at all?"

Margaret: "And never went to college at all."

Bob: "Normal training they called it."

Margaret: "No..."

Jim: "They have the Normal schools?"

Margaret: "Yeah, they did have normal training, too."

Jim: " Did you, after three years, did you have to take.."

Margaret: "I would have had to renew it if I had taught longer than three years."

Jim: "Did you have to take classes, then, to get your renewal?"

Margaret: "Yes."

Jim: "Oh, so you did. So it is like today where...?"

Margaret: "Yes, it was a lot like it is now."

Jim: " Let's see, um, where did you stay while you taught?"

Margaret: " I stayed at home. I lived with my folks here in town. It was two miles from the school."

Jim: " Um, another thing, just as much as you can remember, what was the average school day like? Because you know, the school days now are so much different, what was the average school day like for you, being the only teacher?"

Margaret: "We had our opening exercises and then we'd start in with our lessons. And sometimes, there were three girls in the older class and sometimes they would help with the little one's readings, or something like that, just practicing that way. And, uh, then we would have our recesses, they had a fifteen minute recess in the morning and a fifteen minute recess in the afternoon. And we had, uh, a lunch period of an hour. We also, maybe you have another place for this but we had hot lunches, we started hot lunches in our school."

Jim: "Were they brought out?"

Margaret: " Uh, the parents would take turns bringing or sending them, um, one day, one mother would send in a big pot of ham and beans with real cream in it, (laughs), that was good! And then they would have, they would bring their sandwiches, their cold lunch, too. We would have one hot dish for each lunch. Then we'd have soup. I learned to eat salmon soup there, I never had eaten it before. And, can you think of some other soup, made there? We had stew, and potato soup."

Jim: "During hunting season, did the meals probably relate to whatever was hunted?"

Margaret: "Not particularly, not any that I had."

Jim: "Uh, that's interesting, because that's kind of unusual, really."

Bob: "Most of the farmers butchered their own beef, and made sandwiches out of the side meat, that was good meat."

Margaret: " And some of them would bring fried chicken, oh, and chocolate cake was the best."

Jim: "Did they share it you?"

Margaret: "Oh, yes."

Jim: "They did?"

Margaret: "They always shared. They liked my sandwiches made out of this town stuff, you know. Not baker bread or anything, I mean it was bakers bread, it wasn't home baked."

Jim: "That's neat, because that's really unique. Let's see, you said you were the only teacher at the school?"

Margaret: "Yes."

Jim: "Were there any other, any consultants, or anybody come out and help at all?"

Margaret: "We had a county superintendent, but they didn't come very often. If you had problems you would go to the county superintendent in Hill City."

Jim: "So you were, more or less, stuck out there by yourself?"

Margaret: "I was!"

Jim: "Whatever happened then, you were responsible for."

Bob: "She was the janitor, too."

Jim: "That's what I kind of thought--one room school house probably do everything."

Margaret: "Yeah, you did."

Jim: "What kind of text books did you say you had?"

Margaret: "A lot like we have today. We had what we called arithmetic and I guess you'd call it math today. And, I think it was quite a little different than it is today, but the reading books was the same. And we did have spelling, as it, it is different than... today than it was then."

Jim: "Do you remember any kind of special spelling book you might have had?  
You know the ones they have now days, they are quite a bit different."

Margaret: "Yes, they are not like those at all, we would have, uh, books  
and it'd have a bigger study one week, a list of twenty words and  
then each grade would have those then we would, at the end, have  
three or two practice periods then Monday they would pronounce  
then and Tuesday all at once and then Wednesday they would try them  
and Thursday they studied and Friday was the final."

Jim: "Did they have an oral test then?"

Margaret: "No test but we had oral spelling bees."

Jim: "On Fridays?"

Margaret: "On Fridays, not every Friday, but sometimes we'd try to do something."

Jim: "O.k., another question I need to ask you. Was the school house used  
for anything else besides education activities, was it a meeting  
place?"

Margaret: "Well I think what meetings, or social things they had in those  
days, they didn't have a whole lot, but um, I think they had  
box suppers there. and county elections in the school building  
we had a vacation that day."

Jim: "That was probably a good way to remind the parents that it was time to  
vote."

Margaret: " Yes they were glad (laugh)."

Jim: "Now what did you say were the boundries of the school district?"  
" What do you remember?"

Margaret; "well I don't know positive, but I think, uh, about four miles square.  
You don't say four miles, four square miles."

Jim: "Most of the kids that live in that area went to the school?"

Margaret: "Yes".

Jim: "What was the usual age that a child began school?"

Margaret: "Six most of them, they didn't have to be six on the day that school  
started like they do now and they could start if they were going  
to be six before the year was over and I think some even started,  
well that was a long time later, if they were six anytime during  
the year they got started they wanted to."

Jim; "So it was up to the parent?"

Margaret: "uh huh."

Jim: "How long was the school year?"

Magaret: "Eight months"

Jim: "Eight months, so that gave them more time off in the summer."

Magaret: " yes, uh in town they had nine months here , we had eight months out there."

Jim: "How long was the school day?"

Margaret: "Nine to four."

Jim: " I guess it was the same amount of hours just a little different start."

Magaret: "Just a different start, we had, of course we had the two recesses, 15 minutes periods and then we had one hour noon."

Jim: "So the whole time you taught the school that is what the hours were."

Magaret: "um hum."

Jim: "And you said the school was for all the children that live in this four mile area and not just the ones that paid taxes?"

Magaret: "Yes."

Jim: "Let's see, and also you mentioned a little bit, how was the school financed?"

Magaret: "Taxes", "Just by taxes."

Jim: "Straight taxes?"

Magaret: "um hum"

Jim: "And this is one I'd like you to think about a little bit, how were teachers expected to conduct themselves in the community, you know that sure has changed alot. It used to be, you know like you were saying earlier they wanted a single teacher, they didn't want a married teacher."

Magaret: "Well I don't think they cared particularly that was what they told me at that time that was just an excuse."

Bob: "If it was a man it was alright if he were married."

Magaret: "But they didn't, they were not expe... well you had to be a good moral person. They didn't expect you to be immoral... but you didn't have to go to church because in that area very few of them did. They didn't come, there was one family that came to town to church and there wasn't any church in that school. Some schools had churches in them."

Jim: "oh, I guess that I had always pictured that everyone back then went to church, you just take it for granted that those were more moral times or something."

Magaret: "No we went immoral but a lot of families didn't attend church."

Jim: "What were some of the extra-curricular activities that you had, you know like now a days we have sports and oh and debate teams and things like that."

Magaret: "We didn't have, I think a little later they had spelling bees with another school you know and siphering matches and then they played balls and I suppose we didn't do that, we didn't have enough, I suppose I had 16 kids the first year,

and I guess that I had 16 my third time."

Jim: "So um, was there a problem with teachers you know having new teachers all the time or did a teacher pretty well stick with there position.?"

Magaret: : I, I think two or three or four years generally was how long they stayed .....to my knowledge."

Jim: "Why do you think they left from that short of time you know they didn't sit in one position and retire."

Magaret: "well so many people were ...I mean teachers then we didn't have anything else to do when we graduated from school you needed some kind of job if you weren't going to get married right away and so you just taught school. And they usually got married."

Jim: " And then they stopped?"

Magaret: "Uh huh".

Jim: "Who goverened the school?"

Magaret: "The school board."

Jim: "the school board." "Are they the ones who hired and fired the teachers then? Or did the district superintendent do that?"

Magaret: "The school board usually did that."

Jim: "Now then what was the building like, what were some of the physical problems, you know they say that a lot of these one room school houses were real cold."

Magaret: "They were." "We had a big furnance, uh I was one of the lucky ones my dad would go out and build a fire for me in the morning before school started and then I would go to school and so I was lucky. We had a big uh on-e of those big ones what were they called Bob those big kind of furnaces?"

Bob: "I think probably warm morning."

Magaret: "Warm morning furnace or something like that then it had an outter shell around it to keep it from getting to close to it I suppose because it would circulate around too maybe. And then we had uh..uh, we had to carry the coal and stuff. And I did bring my own coal in or sometimes the bigger boys helped me. And swept the school building out. Brought in water, the children always helped thoughwith the little chores, they wanted to help they wanted to do things for the teacher, they wanted to clean the blackboard and they did."

Jim: "So you were the janitor of the school then too?"

Magaret: "Yes"

Jim: "So you were in charge of the general upkeep would you say?"

Magaret: "Yes"

Jim: "Oh let's see, another thing I was going to ask you what special events happened at the school, any special things that happened every year or just anything, just once."



Magaret: "Well we would have Christmas program, is that what you mean?"

Jim: "Yes something like that."

Magaret: "And we would have a uh closing program of some kind at the end of the year."

Jim: "O.K., that was just what I was looking for and um who owned the school house itself?"

Magaret: "The school district, I understand the land owner whose land it was on, the school used it and didn't have to pay any rent on it but if the school disbanded or moved the land went back to the owner."

Bob: "Not the building just the land."

Magaret: "Yes..yes, the building was generally sold."

Jim: "You,..you said earlier there was not a principal/"

Magaret: "No."

Jim: "You were the principal and the teacher. O.K.. I guess I already asked you this earlier, was the school house used only for teaching, you said it was used for box....."

Magaret: "oh..for box suppers if they wanted to have them, they didn't have them to often, it was pretty hard times then."

Jim: "What was the age, you said the kids started generally at six years old, how old did they go up to?"

Magaret: "Well most of them went until they graduated, or until 16, about like now."

Jim: "Sixteen from sixth grade, from the school you were at, when you sent the kids onto 8th grade how old were they?"

Magaret: "Thirteen or so but they had to go until they were sixteen."

Jim: "Can you remember some of the teaching methods you used?" "You know now a days there is lecture and film, teachers give notes?"

Magaret: "Well we would assign problems and for arithmetic they would go to the blackboard, and explain, different ones would take turns and explain how they answered it and then we would test them and check... we would do problems out in class, graded them really. For reading we would just gather around, each grade would come up around my desk and we had a little recite place by the desk. And they would take turns reading they answered their English questions. Did some, had to write some stories."

Jim: "So you gave them, would you say they had a lot of homework?"

Magaret: "For some of them yes, it was a whole lot, yes they all had some homework. I had one boy, you want to hear it? He brought back his paper and I said 'you didn't do this, this paper, it doesn't look like your writing', and he said 'No it's not and she said that if I went out after the cows she would write that essay for me.'"

Jim: "Did you ever have problems with parents complaining about homework?"

Magaret: "No, we didn't have any, they wouldn't complain much they were real nice people."

Jim: "Would you say that the parents participated in the school quite a bit you know, were real cooperative?"

Magaret: "they were cooperative they didn't do alot, they would see that their children would do their homework and they participated I suppose."

Jim: "Now how long, well what was the furtherist distance that any one child traveled to your school?"

Magaret: "How long do you think it was, for the ... was that two miles?"

Bob: "Two and a half miles."

Jim: "Did their parents bring them in?"

Magaret: "Yes."

Jim: "What kind of transportation?"

Magaret: "Well this one little girl came the farthest and her uncle was, she lived with her Uncle, he would bring her to school in an automobile."

Bob: "The Browns walked."

Magaret: "The Browns walked, we had some others."

Jim: "About how far?"

Bob: "About two and a half miles."

Jim: "so they walked to school two and a half miles and walked home everyday about two and a half miles?"

Magaret: "Yes".

Bob: "Cross country."

Magaret: "If they went around, I don't think the one family even had an automobile. They had horses with men rode."

Bob: "They had an automobile but they didn't use it as an automobile they put a tongue in it and hitched the team, put the horses to it and pulled it that way."  
"They had the kind of automobiles that had a window that went down and they just stuck the reins through there."

Jim: "I bet that was a sight?"

Bob: "It was comfortable."

Jim: "It would be better than a buckboard."

Bob: "Oh yes."

Jim: "well, lets see, another question I mant to ask, how did you grade, did you give the regular letter grade, how did you determine those letter grades?"

Margaret: "A,B,C, I know what you mean, we didn't have the, what's it called when you put it on a scale?"

Jim: "You mean a percentage?"

Margaret: "Percentage scale. I didn't have a percentile, I just, if they got most of them correct they got an A, if they got everything correct--A+."

Jim: "So they were pretty subjective then?"

Margaret: "Most of them were pretty good students."

Jim: "So you could tell pretty easily who the A students were, the B, the C?"

Margaret: "Oh, yeah."

Jim: "What were the lowest grade you gave then?"

Margaret: "Some of them got D's. Some got F's."

Jim: "Did you feel like there any pressure on you to pass a student? You know sometimes..?"

Margaret: "Not pressure, but everybody was passed in those days, I mean you very seldom failed anybody. I never did."

Jim: "How many different classes did you say you taught at one time, how many different classes of students?"

Margaret: "I had six grades. Most of all of them had seven subjects."

Jim: "O.K. Now tell me about the heating, the lighting, and the bathroom facilities."

Margaret: "We had the heating, with this big stove, wood furnace, it was in the room. Part of the furnace."

Bob: "It was bigger than a parlor furnace."

Margaret: "For dinner we didn't have lights, we just had a lamp, if you had anything going in the evening. Most of our programs were on a Friday afternoon, we didn't have it in the evening very many times. And, bathroom facilities were outside. And one of my most, I don't know what you would call it, my first experiences, the boys came rushing in, they all, there's a snake out in our bathroom. I had never killed a snake, (laughs), I had never gotten close to one. And I thought, well you have to be brave, so I went out and took a stick and killed the snake--it was only a bullsnake. If I had known that, I probably wouldn't have killed it. Anyway, they thought I was pretty brave."

Jim: " You were the hero for the day. Boy, get their respect, for sure. Let's see , what did you have for a water source?"

Margaret: "A well. Just a pump well."

Jim: "Did you have one of the students in charge of getting the water every day?"

Margaret: "Well, yes. We all took turns helping. We didn't have any set schedule or anything, maybe some of the sixth graders, would do it one day, and the fifth graders might another."

Bob: "She was talking about having six grades, but they progressed until they went through the eighth grade is what she's talking about, the next year they went up..."

Margaret: "Yeah, well some of them combined. The teacher before me had failed one girl and put her back in her brother's class, so then, that just cut out third and fourth, and they went through that way, it was first and second--I don't remember what years they were. We didn't ever have eight grades, but we did have first graders often, some did move away, I believe their fathers did. One family moved away."

Jim: "Did you, you know we talked about this a little bit, you know how sometimes communities will get together and raise money for something special for the school. Did you ever have that happen, where you donated things for the school."

Margaret: "No, we didn't do anything like that."

Jim: "They never donated books or playground supplies or anything."

Margaret: "No, they thought what we had was sufficient. I guess it was."

Jim: "And they were happy..."

Margaret: "What they had to have they'd buy, like a.. I know we had a merry-go-round I think that was all we had, we didn't have a swing, and I don't remember playing ball but boys must have played ball."

Jim: "Now did you have a school library?"

Margaret: "Yes."

Jim: "How big would you say it was? Or how many books, how many volumes would you say were in it?"

Margaret: " Could you remember?"

Bob: "Probably fifty books, maybe."

Margaret: "Maybe fifty."

Jim: "Did you have to purchase them all, or.."

Margaret: "Well, they were all there in the schoolhouse when I came."

Jim: "Probably purchased by the...?"

Margaret: "The district."

Jim: "Did you, now, it sounds like there were, from what we've talked about, a lot of little schools around the area. You said there were schools all around here, did you ever do activities with the other schools?"

Margaret: "We didn't when I taught there, but later on I knew that they had spelling bees and cifering matches. Sometimes they would play, have ball games."

Jim: "You want to explain what a 'cifering match is?"

Margaret: "It's arithmetic, and they'd get up to the blackboard and the teacher, you'd have like the one's that up there challenge the other, and he gets to choose whether they want to have addition or subtraction or spelling or what, or multiplication, I don't mean spelling. And then you, the teacher would just gives them a number or gives them a problem to solve the one that gets through first wins that round."

Jim: "So it's kind of like a spelling bee almost?"

Margaret: "Um-hum, it;s like a spelling bee."

Bob: "It get's pretty wild."

Jim: "Did the kids cheer for each other and things then?"

Margaret: "Oh yes. They'd choose up sides, yeah we would choose up sides and then, whichever side would win. It was exciting."

Jim: "I bet that was fun."

Magaret: "It was, they thought it was a lot of fun."

Jim: "O.K., another question I have is can you think of any traditions that your particular school had, or any tradition that just followed, I guess a good analagy I could think of is you know how you know we have senior nights, or at home coming we have homecoming football games, that a tradition did you have anything such as that?"

Magaret: "No we didn't do much, we didn't have too much of a social life back then at all."

Jim: "So the kids were just generally in school?"

Bob: "In school, and then they had chores to do when they got home so they didn't doddle much."

Magaret: "We didn't have anything after school because they had to go home."

Jim: "I'm continueing here with Magaret Rath and the next question is, did your school, was it different than any of the schools in the area, you know was there anything you could say was different from the other schools?"

Magaret: "Not that I would call anything different about it, it was different than the town school that had four rooms in it, but no all the country schools were like that."

Jim: "O.K. and um, can you.. if there was one outstanding feature that you could think of from your school that really sticks out in your mind what would you say it is?"

Magaret: "What do you mean?"

J:

Jim: "Oh maybe something that was unique, you know did you have a special church bell, or a special school bell or anything like?"

Magaret: "We did have a school bell yes it wasn't special, but all schools did then."

Jim: "Did you have to ring it then at the beginning of each day to call the kids in?"

Magaret: "You always let one of them ring it, they liked to ring the bell."

Jim: "Did your school have any particular problems that you can think of?"

Magaret: "No nothing that the rest of us didn't have, you know we all, no I can't think of any particular problem."

Jim: "What do you mean by none of the rest of us had?"

Magaret: "Well I mean none that no one else had, I mean we all ahs, we didn't do with very much but we thought we had a lot."

Jim: "What was the name of your school?"

Magaret "Grandview."

Jim: "Grandview." "Do you know what the significance of the name or how it got it?"

Magaret: "No I don't know."

Jim: "It was just called that?"

Magaret: "Yes."

Jim: "Were there any physical changes in the school during the years that you were there, did they change it in anyway, add on to it or..?"

Magaret: "Reshingled it one year."

Jim: "Did the school board pay someone or did people around the area?"

Magaret: "I think the people came in,... parents."

Jim: "Is that something you had to ask for or did they just do it on there own?"

Magaret: "They knew it needed to be done."

Jim: "You didn't have to complain to them and tell them it was leaking or anything?"

Magaret: "No."

Jim: "Was it leaking was that why it needed to be fixed?"

Magaret: "Yes it did leak, not in the regular room but in the antey room it leaked a little, and they realized it needed to be done."

Jim: "Was that where the kids hung there coats and thing?"

Magaret: "Uh huh."

Jim: "Is that in the back or is that in the front?"

Magaret: "It was.. we came in through the antey room."

Jim: "You said there was a water well near the school then?"

Magaret: "Yes, in the school yard."

Jim: "How did you keep records of the kids, you know the....?"

Magaret: "We had grade books..is that what you mean?"

Jim: "Eh huh."

Magaret: "Umm..register book, we had a big register book, and we just kept in the daily grade book."

Jim: "Is that something you had to turn into the district superintendent at the end of the year?"

Bob: "County superintendent."

Jim: "County superintendent and you kept that in, that was a permanent record?"

Magaret: "Yes". "It was kept at the courthouse."

Jim: "so if we were looking at the structure of the school you were the teacher and the principal, and there were probably a whole bunch of, were all the schools under the county superintendent then, even the town schools?"

Magaret: "Yes".

Bob: "The county had county wide examinations for the eighth graders and if they didn't pass it they didn't go to high school."

Magaret: "They would go to Hill City for the test."

Bob: "They had them up here at the grade school too."

Jim: "Oh so there was, now they talk about people having to be tested before they can graduate from high school, so we had that, at one time to get into high school."

Bob: "You bet we did and I'll tell you."

Jim: "so if a child didn't pass they had to go back for another year of school?"

Bob: "Yeah, until they were sixteen."

Jim;: "And when they were sixteen did they just quit, so they just quit then?"

Bob: "A lot of them just quit anyway."

Jim: "After they failed a couple of times they would just give up on their own?"

Magaret: "You had to go through the eighth grade or sixteen years old."

Bob: "Alot of these boys would be sixteen by the time they completed grade school, they would never go to high school they would just go to work. I can name some in this community right now that didn't go to high school at all."

Jim: "Were there, are there a lot of them around?"

Bob: "There's quite a few, I know of one man, a very successful man, a business man who only went to the fourth grade."

Jim: "Gosh, you want me to ask you later?"

Bob: "you may."

Jim: "O.K. now is the school building still remaining anyplace, you said it was burned down didn't you?"

Margaret: "That was Bob's"

Jim: "O.K., what happened to your school?"

Margaret: "They moved it off, but I don't know where, do you?"

Bob: "Well, they probably just used it for a chicken house or something."

Margaret: "Maybe some farmer moved it to his place and used it for a grainery or..."

Jim: "Do they still have the records that you kept anyplace?"

Bob: "I don't know if they put them on microfilm or whether they just..."

Margaret: "I imagine they don't have, they're down in the court house and I don't imagine they couldn't keep all them."

Jim: "So there's probably no physical evidence that there was ever a school there, was there?"

Margaret: "No."

Jim: "Gosh, that's a lot of history being erased, isn't it, when you think about it. All the kids that went through there, they don't have any place to go back to to say this is where I went to school at."

Bob: "About ten years ago though, the historical society, they found out where all the old school buildings had been and they put signs up at each place and had a tour and you could go around and look at all the old school sites and town sites, post offices--they had everything named."

Margaret: "Post offices out in the country, that was really before then."

Jim: "And, um, let's see, how many students did you say you had in your class at any time?"

Margaret: "In each class?"

Jim: "Yeah, or just all together."

Margaret: "Forteen one year, sixteen one year."

Jim: "O.K. and how many students would you say, did you have all the grades filled all the time."

Margaret: "No."



Jim: "You didn't?"

Margaret: "sometimes you would skip, two grades."

Jim: "because there weren't any...?"

Margaret: "There weren't any students that age. We'd just have two and three, three was the most, no. I had four in one class of fourth graders, I had four to start with."

Jim: "Do you remember that year your school closed?"

Margaret: "What year--it closed the year after Katie taught. Was there anybody after that, no I think Mildred Hunsicker taught out there. I don't know."

Jim: "Was it considered, what was the name of the district, the name of the school was Grandview, was it the Graham County School District?"

Bob: "45."

Jim: "You mean that was the name of the district?"

Margaret: "Yes, just 45."

Jim: "You said earlier that the land was given to the school, no, the school was built on a farmers land, and then when the school was, ended the land went back to the farmer."

Margaret: "Yes."

Jim: "Is there a foundation there today?"

Bob: "No, I don't think so."

Margaret: "I think it's been all removed."

Jim: "Now this one I'd really like you to think about alot. What was the inside of the school like, no know, it just, as much in detail as you can think of. Even including the desks and..."

Margaret: "Well, there was wainscoating up all arougn the outside about thirty-six inches around the walls. And there were, that was varnished, a brown. Then above that it was painted."

Jim: "Was it a cement or stucco?"

Margaret: "Plastered."

Jim: "Plastered?"

Margaret: "Um-hum, old-fashioned plaster and it had wooden floors and the desks, what, yes, we had to oil the floors , and I had to do that occasionally. And the desks were with a folding back seat, you know, if you stand up, it folds up as you stand there."

Bob: "They're all screwed to the floor."

Margaret: "Yes, they're all fastened to the floor, several desks, no, we did have two double desks, three double desks and some for the older kids. They sat together, the little ones sat separately. And they didn't get to sit together very much."

Jim: "What kind of things did you have in your classroom, you know...?"

Margaret: " You mean?"

Jim: "Like you earlier about the stove. Did you have maps and globes and things like that?"

Margaret: "We had maps and we had a globe. We had some of those that pull down from the wall, right above the blackboard. We had a blackboard up on one end."

Jim: "Was, you know a lot of classrooms I've seen you know the front part of the classroom where the teacher is that part is elevated a little, was yours that way?"

Margaret: "Uh, mine wasn't, and uh we had a place in the vestibule where they could hang their coats, and as I recall there were two doors that went in and out of the vestibule. Then on one side we had a wash stand, and the bucket of water, dipper, and then we had a little kerosene stove that we heated our lunch on. The children would be the beans. The beans I remember especially because they were so good, I never did taste them with cream in them, which is scooped in."

Jim: "Is there anything else you can think of that you want to mention?"

Margaret: "No."

Jim: "What would you say the teaching environment was like, you know was it..?"

Margaret: "It was pleasant if that is what you mean?"

Jim: "Were you trying to make this a real strict environment or were you..?"

Margaret: "Strict, but they weren't naughty, they were all good well behaved children, we didn't have any disobedient ones to speak of as we do now."

Jim: "Would you say that the kids were more respectful of the teachers back then than they are now?"

Margaret: "Oh yes."

Jim: "Did they fear the teachers a little bit?"

Margaret: "Did they what?"

Jim: "Fear, did they have any fear of you?"

Margaret: "Oh yes, they thought I would punish them if they needed it."

Jim: "The fear was probably enough to keep them from getting in trouble?"

Magaret: "Probably."

Jim; "Some things, and this is kind of interesting, do you remember some of the **occupations** the students turned out to be, do you know generally, or even some unique ones?"

Magaret: "Yeah, we have a minister, and, I don't think we had any school teachers did we, farmers, several of them have moved away and I don't know what they do. One girl is a nurse, well there were two of them that went to nursing school."

Jim: "O.K., another question I have that kind of relates to, well not really relates to this to much but it's an interesting one, were there, can you generalize your kids you know as to any nationality or religion?"

Magaret: "They were protestant, just American mixed."

Jim: "There weren't any, you know South of here we have the German...?"

Magaret: "No we didn't have anything like that."

Jim: "So they were, so they weren't, you don't think they probably all came over at one time?"

Magaret: "No."

Jim; "In a mass immigration or anything like that?"

Magaret: "No."

Jim: "So that might be why there is a rivalry between Morland and ST. Peter, all these Protestant kids and all these Catholic kids?"

Magaret: "Probably."

Jim: "Did you have a graduation exercise for the kids when they..?"

Magaret: "We did like you said when they took those tests and we went to town and had a county wide graduation, at Hill City and we went down for that."

Jim: "Did you have one for every grade or just at the end of the ...?"

Magaret: "Just at the eighth grade."

Jim: "O.K., and did you have any special classes or any special services you know today we have special ed. and we educate every kid or every child of education age, did you have anything like that, any special things that you had to deal with?"

Magaret: "no we didn't have any of that, you are talking about children that need special help?"

Jim; "Special help or retarded children?"

Magaret: "I didn't in school like that?"

Jim: "Did you have any special education services, did the county superintendent provide anything special for you?"

Margaret: "No."

Jim: "You were just then on your own?"

Margaret: "You were on your own and if you had a problem, well you didn't have any in that district at all."

Jim: "O.K., can you think, you know I don't mean to pry but can you think of any controversies about the school itself you know how sometimes there are controversies over location of schools, over how schools are run, you know how they are set up in structure, can you....?"

Margaret: "No, I don't. As I remember, they were all, of course I grew up and knew all of them. One family came to church and we were very well acquainted with them, they came to our church here in town and one of the boys' sisters was a teacher in the Sunday school, and..."

Jim: "So these kids were, you knew them before they came to school?"

Margaret: "Yes, and they didn't give any problem."

Jim: "That's probably what helped you with the discipline, wouldn't you say?"

Margaret: "Probably."

Jim: "Because they knew when their parents found out..."

Margaret: "Yes, they knew, that they were expected to behave and they did."

Bob: "Tell you what they used to do, if they had a school that was considered to be a tough school, they would hire a man teacher, and he was expected to straighten the school out."

Jim: "With physical discipline?"

Bob: "Right. I even knew one who threw a kid clear out the window."

Jim: "Oh, boy."

Bob: "He wasn't a kid, he was probably a twenty year old kid, he just decided he'd had enough trouble."

Jim: "Oh my gosh! But if we did that now days, there'd be all kinds of problems."

Margaret: "And your neck."

Bob: "The boy came back to school and was an eighth grader quite a while" But you know they'd go to school three months, work part of the winter and the rest of the time they had to work and come back and just keep at it until they had enough education to get through the eighth grade."

Margaret: "Get so they could pass the test, they had to pass a test then, they don't now."

Jim: "So, in this, in the county district, or the county school system, you had first through eighth grade, and then you had high school. Was there any age requirement for high school?"

Bob: "Not that I'm aware of."

Margaret: "Well when you were in the high school... because after you got to be twenty-one, they couldn't participate in athletics."

Bob: "We had a lot of them in their twenties playing football and basketball."

Margaret: "I thought they would graduate, though."

Jim: "So you would, had at this time, Margaret, when you were teaching, how old were some of the kids then that you had? What would you say the oldest kid was you had in school was?"

Margaret: "I just had a fourteen year old and they graduated."

Jim: "And what did you say the oldest was, Bob?"

Bob: "I know of a lot of kids that were twenty years old before they graduated."

Jim: "Gosh."

Bob: "That was before..."

Margaret: "Another school, yeah."

Jim: "That's sticking to it, they stayed with it for twenty years. Not for twenty years, but to be twenty..."

Bob: "They wanted it."

Jim: "Um, can you think of, I don't know how you'd explain it, but can you think of any lasting contributions that your school made to the area, you know in the, maybe some kind of special I don't know, some kind of employment?"

Margaret: "Not that I can think of, no, I can't think of anything."

Jim: "But you said you of was a minister, I guess I would consider that a special."

Margaret: "He moved away from here a long time before he came a minister."

Jim: "O.K., you said the school doesn't exist any more today, there's nothing at the site?"

Margaret: "Nothing."

Jim: "O.K., now, I want you to elaborate on this a little bit if you could. What would say again, what the teaching atmosphere was like. Would you consider yourself as a strict teacher. I shouldn't say you, but the schools at this time. Would you say loose, warm, cold, you know as far as a learning atmosphere?"

Margaret: "Well, I think, that in the other areas the schools, they were real strict, and probably I was too, but I didn't have any that didn't expect to learn and they wanted to learn, they wanted to do all things that we could do and they were interested in getting away, going someplace."

Jim: "Could the students be real open with you?"

Margaret: "I thought they were, yes. We didn't have any problem. I guess I said that so many times."

Jim: "Yeah, well gosh, that's a blessing from some of the problems..."

Margaret: "I know it.."

Jim: "That I've heard of."

Margaret: "That's one of the reasons Tim quit teaching." (Tim is their son.)

Jim: "Is because of discipline problems? I know it's getting to be that way, I know a lot of teachers are. What happened, did the school, after it closed was it around for awhile before they did anything to it."

Margaret: "Well, we were away from here, let's see that was in '39 '40 we left here, we were away for six years. And I don't know what happened."

Bob: "See what the happened, the state consolidated districts. A lot of the buildings stood for several years before anything was done at all. Pretty soon the school went into consolidation" they sold nearly all the property through a public auction and sold the property through the school."

Margaret: "The desks and the books and things."

Jim: "Do you know, so you don;t think there's anything, not even the pot-bellied stove or the desks or anything?"

Bob: "Somebody bought it. Somebody bought the building."

Margaret: "I don't know where it went, I don't know anything about there because we were away and then World War II came along."

Jim: "Came along and changed..."

Margaret: "It changed a lot of things."

Jim: "Would you say that any of your students, can you name any of them that went on to become outstanding people, you know, pillars of the community. Can you name any of them?"

Margaret: "Well, I know some of them here in town, I don't know whether you'd call them..."

Jim: "Well people who are respected..."

Margaret: "Charlie Minium is one, Theo Minium and um,..."

Bob: "Darryl Minium, the one that was killed."

Margaret: "And we had the Brown's, we had Morgans who have moved away, I don't know exactly what they have done."

Bob: "I would say that their parents were pillars of the community at the time and the kids just grew into it."

Jim: "Do you remember anybody who served on the school board?"

Margaret: "Yes, I know the school board members."

Jim: "Can you name them?"

Margaret: "Verna Minium was one and Ralph Heath was another, and Corey Martin was the third."

Jim: "Oh, you only had three?"

Margaret: "Um-hum, we only had three."

Jim: "And were they all farmers?"

Margaret: "Verna, her husband was a farmer."

Jim: "O.K., gosh, I guess I thought there'd be more school board members than three."

Margaret: "Well up unto the time they consolidated the schools, unified the districts, there were only three school board members on all school boards as far as I knew."

Jim: "Do you know how often they were elected?"

Bob: "Every year, no, no,."

Jim: "The same clothes?"

Bob: "The boys would wear overalls."

Magaret: "The boys would wear overalls and maybe a clean shirt every other day or so and the girls maybe changed dresses every other day. I don't think they would wear the same thing all week, but they didn't have as much as a change as we do now." "I mean kids have to put on clean clothes everyday now."

Jim: "Well they do now adays but you question some."

Magaret: "These kids would have clean clothes because they would go home everyday after school and change them and wear their tore clothes or what ever they did at home."

Jim: "was there some pride involved on how the kids dressed, you know , was it important to them."

Magaret: "I don't think, oh they, yes some of the little girls were proud of the ribbons or bows or what ever they would have, but..."

Bob: "Or a new pair of shoes."

Magaret: "Yes if they would get something new, they were proud of them yes, but not boastful or showoffy."

Jim: "What, what did you say the boys usually wore, just cover er.. overalls?"

Magaret: "Overalls, they didn't have jeans back then."

Jim: "Did the girls always wear dresses then?"

Magaret: "well no, on the cold days they had uh, corderoy, that was popular then and they were allowed to wear corderoy."

Jim: "So they were allowed to wear pants?"

Magaret: "Yes."

Jim: "on the real cold days?"

Magaret: "Uh huh, I'm not sure I didn't but I'm not sure I didn't."

Jim: "was this about the time that people, you know the kids, the girls started wearing pants?"

Magaret: "Not very much, back then."

Jim: "Just on the cold days then...?"

Magaret: "That was 46 years ago."

Jim: "You can't remember all that."

Magaret: "No."



Margaret: "One went off each year, didn't they?"

Bob: "One went off each year."

Margaret: "You were elected for a three year term.. and each year.."

Jim: "So each year you had a new school board member?"

Bob: "Yes".

Magaret: "One new one yes."

Jim: "O.K. , we covered a lot of things but one thing, can you think of any specific rules that you had for those kids?"

Magaret: "NO."

Jim: "You know like um..I guess it would be the common things like we have now adays like be on time."

Magaret: "oh yes, they had to be on time but they were there usually about the time I would get there a lot of them, especially when my dad would go out and start the fire."

Jim: "So they would already be in the building?"

Magaret: "oh no, but as I recall we must have locked the building, but I don't remember." "I had a key, yes I do remember."

Jim: "Can youi remember what rules you emphasized?"

Magaret: "No, I just, I'm a great one to uh, I think you should be quiet when different ones are reciting and you stay in your seat, you don't get up and walk around. Some of the other teachers, I substituted later and, in the grade school here in town, and they allowed so much to go on that I, I thought they weren't strict as they could be."

Jim: "Didn't you have a problem then when you went in and substituted, you know going from, you probably went in strict when you taught?"

Magaret: "Well, no problems, I would just be disgusted, because I didn't think they were very strict, it wasn't any of my business only the day that I taught."

Jim: "You daid, you know that these were hard times when you taught were the kids, you know the way they were dressed, were they, dressed to the times? Know a days some of these kids really dress up for school?"

Magaret: "They dress up or they dress down?"

Jim: "Well some, a little of both now, but you know the kids, did they dress up for school or did they just wear there regular old..?"

Magaret: "No they wore their reg..., they had school clothes and they would go home and change them, and they would put the same, wear their school clothes, well I don't know whether they would wear them all week or not."