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1989

### Interview with Audrey Rufenacht

Mary Ann Mellies  
*Fort Hays State University*

Audrey Rufenacht

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CHAPTER TWO  
ORAL INTERVIEW

Mary Ann: Okay Audrey, would you tell me what grade school you attended?

Audrey : I attended Rosedale.

Mary Ann: Was that in Ness City?

Audrey : It was a country school.

Mary Ann: Was it in Ness County?

Audrey : Yes, in Ness County.

Mary Ann: What grades did you attend there?

Audrey : I attended all the eight grades.

Mary Ann: You attended all the grades one through eight?

Audrey : Yes. Now that is when I went to school.

Mary Ann: What high school did you attend?

Audrey : I attended Ness City all three years.

Mary Ann: Was that located in town?

Audrey : Yes, it was located in town.

Mary Ann: What college did you attend?

Audrey : I attended Springfield, Missouri, Southwestern State.  
Then I attended Fort Hays.

Mary Ann: That is where you have your degree from is Fort Hays?

Audrey : My degree is from Fort Hays.

Mary Ann: How old are you?

Audrey : I am seventy-six now.

Mary Ann: What years did you teach? Do you remember when you  
first started teaching?

Audrey : I started in '31 and I finished in '43, but not all  
at Franklinville. I had three years at Franklinville.

Mary Ann: What were the years you taught at Franklinville?

Audrey : I taught '31, '32, and '33, and then I left for one  
year. I came back and I taught '35.

Mary Ann: What other schools have you taught at?

Audrey : I taught at Riverside, North Star, Sunshine, and  
Barton County two years.

Mary Ann: Were these all elementary schools?

Audrey : They were all elementary. Then I was principal at Brownell one year. Well then I taught the Pembleton school. They were all right around Ness City, except Barton County.

Mary Ann: Have you received any teaching awards?

Audrey : Not particularly, only just my certificates.

Mary Ann: I realize you have taught at several schools, but I think we are going to concentrate on when you taught at Franklinville. What subjects were studied or taught there?

Audrey : Well, I had all grades, different grades; but my first year I just had one student.

Mary Ann: Oh, really?

Audrey : Just one boy. He was a fourth grader.

Mary Ann: That was your only student?

Audrey : That was my only student. I got eighty dollars a month for teaching him. He left in March. His folks moved in March, so they just paid me the rest of the year.

Mary Ann: But you did not have to go ahead and finish the year?

Audrey : No, there wasn't anything to do.

Mary Ann: What subjects did you teach?

Audrey : We had reading, writing, and arithmetic at that time,  
and spelling and music and geography and English.

Mary Ann: You were in charge of all of these subjects yourself?  
You taught the music and everything?

Audrey : Yes. I taught violin two years to the students. I  
had four or five.

Mary Ann: How big did your classes get then?

Audrey : Well, I didn't have very many in school. I had  
nine one year, another year, I've got that all written  
down here, just how many students I had (she looked  
through a previous interview done about her). In  
'35 I had Mildred Langs, Dorinda Rohr, Virginia  
Langs, Herman and Richard Langs. Then I had Harold  
Meis, Luke Meis, Margaret Meis, and Ernest Meis.  
Then Austin and Joanne were too young to go to school,  
but I had them in school anyway. I kept them at  
school because they didn't have anybody at home to  
take care of them. Their dad was working.

Mary Ann: Did you go ahead and teach them the courses?

Audrey : No, I didn't teach them anything because they were just little. One of them was only two.

Mary Ann: Oh, really?

Audrey : The other one was something like three, maybe four. But he just left them at the schoolhouse and I just babysat them. They would take their naps and all that stuff.

Mary Ann: Goodness. How long was a school day? When did it begin and when did it end?

Audrey : I think we started at nine at that time. We went from nine until four.

Mary Ann: How long did the school year go?

Audrey : It went for eight months.

Mary Ann: Did school begin in August or September?

Audrey : It began in September.

Mary Ann: It started in September?

Audrey : No, no, let's see, yes in September. Then we got out in April I think it was.

Mary Ann: Oh, really? Did you have any special teaching methods you used that you would like to tell about? How about any techniques?

Audrey : I don't know. I think sometimes one student can help another one with their work. I believe in that kind of working together.

Mary Ann: They use a lot of that today even.

Audrey : I'm just eleven years since I've been up there at Ness.

Mary Ann: Did you list that in your schools that you taught?

Audrey : Oh no, I didn't either. I didn't list that. I taught at Beeler three years.

Mary Ann: Right, you taught at Beeler three years.

Audrey : I taught up here four years. But that didn't have anything to do with Franklinville.

Mary Ann: So, you used peer teaching some?

Audrey : Yes I did. I don't believe in being too strict, and yet I believe in people halfways being strict. I don't want any stress. I don't like stress teaching.

Mary Ann: A typical school day curriculum, would be like you said, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Did you spend any more time on a particular subject than any other subject?

Audrey : I think I did. Reading and math, more on that than anything else. In fact, I know that reading was one of my main things and then math was the next.

Mary Ann: How was promotion decided? Were there competency tests or grade level tests given for promotion?

Audrey : Just whatever the teacher decided they were capable of.

Mary Ann: How did you decide on textbooks?

Audrey : Well, they were there. They were furnished by the superintendent. She was the one that did the judging.

Mary Ann: So you really didn't have any input into that.

Audrey : No.

Mary Ann: I see.

Audrey : But then we had the use of the library in town if we wanted them to send books out for us to use.



Mary Ann: You mean just library books, or did they send textbooks too?

Audrey : They had textbooks. Different textbooks that we wanted, also different authors.

Mary Ann: Was that from the public library?

Audrey : No, that was from the superintendent's office.

Mary Ann: Which was located in Ness City?

Audrey : Yes, in the courthouse.

Mary Ann: Okay. What was the atmosphere of the educational program? Was it strict or loose? You already mentioned that you didn't believe in too much strictness.

Audrey : Yes, I don't know. I like to see kids do to their potential, but I still think you have to push them sometimes in a little fashion in order to keep them up to their potential. We had no air conditioning and it got pretty hot sometimes. If it got too hot, too terribly hot, we did have two or three trees we would use to go out and sit under to read our lists.

Mary Ann: Oh really? So you'd go outside and do some?

Audrey : Yes, we did some outside because it was too hot inside. We'd sit in the shade of the schoolhouse and some of our things. We were rather just like a big family.

Mary Ann: Yes, I bet. Are there any rules of the school that might be different from today's rules?

Audrey : Well, I don't know. I never had to paddle kids. I know that they can't do it now. But that just changed a year or two ago.

Mary Ann: It's been a few years ago.

Audrey : I don't know. I couldn't see much difference when I went to Ness than years ago.

Mary Ann: Were you on your own more? Were you left alone quite a bit?

Audrey : We were on our own practically all the time. We did have the superintendent visit us once in awhile, and if we wanted any help she would offer to see what we needed and everything. But we were mostly on our own. But one thing we had to put our own wood in the shed and do our own coal. Stuff like that. Not hauling, but carrying in. That was our job.

Mary Ann: Who provided the wood? Did you have to provide it yourself?

Audrey : No, the schoolboard had somebody haul it to the school. But they were mostly great big trees and all stuff like that. We had to chop them up ourselves.

Mary Ann: Oh, you did that?

Audrey : But we played the games out there with the kids and we finally got it all in. We'd play cop and robber and all that stuff. You'd have to chop so many sticks to get out of jail and all that stuff.

Mary Ann: Oh, that's fun.

Audrey : We played that game. First thing you'd know, we'd have our wood all in and the kids didn't mind it.

Mary Ann: So they got to help too? That's good. You made it more, like you said, one big happy family and everybody kind of took care of the building? What about cleaning and that kind of thing? Did you have to do the cleaning?

Audrey : I had the students do the sweeping. Unless one of the girls wanted to help me. They used to like to get out

of school five or ten minutes early. Then they'd get the broom and they'd have it swept in just a little while. So that helped some.

Mary Ann: Yes. What time did you have to get there in order to get the building warm? Did you go early, I assume?

Audrey : No, we just made the fire. No, I usually went just about eight-thirty and then by nine o'clock, everything was ready. It started at nine.

Mary Ann: What time did you say you were out?

Audrey : Four o'clock.

Mary Ann: Four o'clock.

Audrey : I usually didn't stay too long after four o'clock. I naturally didn't have too much to do with just that many students. But I kept those little kids that winter. I had to wash their hair and everything.

Mary Ann: Oh, really? Those ones that you babysat?

Audrey : I had to wash the whole school kids' hair. See, I had the Meises and they didn't have any mother. Their mother was killed when they came here from Idaho that year.

Mary Ann: Oh, really?

Audrey : There was Ramona, Imogene, all those guys. Joanne Meis and all these boys. Yes, we just had a regular hair washing day at school. They wouldn't get it done if they didn't.

Mary Ann: That's different than today.

Audrey : Yes, that's different than today. There wasn't anything else to do. You know, that's what you had to do. If the poor little kids had any cleanliness at all, it had to be through me.

Mary Ann: Did they bring their own lunch and things like that?

Audrey : Such as it was. It wasn't very good. But I made things. I'd bring a bunch of potatoes fixed up, scalloped potatoes and things, and we'd put them on the stove, oh at about a quarter till noon. Then we had the stove going, and then we'd have a warm lunch. It's different from that now.

Mary Ann: Yes it is. My next question is to describe a typical day before and after school. I think we talked about that before. You said that you pretty well got the fire going, and then after school you swept. Anything else you want to add to that?

Audrey : Oh, I think that's about it. I would see that the little kiddies got home.

Mary Ann: Okay. We'll probably talk about that later, I think. Talk about how they came to school. How are teaching ways and habits different now than when you taught?

Audrey : Well, if we have all one class in a room you can teach them differently from what you have if you have five or six different classes. But as far as teaching material, I can't see that there is a lot of difference. Only I had to have each class with something different.

Mary Ann: Right. You had several classes, several grade levels in one classroom.

Audrey : I had several grade levels but I did use the blackboard more. I could see what the kids were doing, their problems, their spelling words and all that. My blackboards were always full, because I wanted to know what the kids were doing. I could see what they were doing.

Mary Ann: You had them write on the board.

Audrey : While I was teaching another class. They would be up there working their lesson, which sometimes that

was their lesson, up on the blackboard. They didn't have it on paper then. They'd have it on blackboard. Then I could see what they were doing. See, when you had three or four different classes, you wouldn't know what you were doing.

Mary Ann: That's true. How were teachers expected to conduct themselves in the community? Did you have certain rules or expectations or did the community have expectations of you?

Audrey : Yes they did. You didn't do certain things. I don't know, they never did say anything to me about it, but I know I have heard a woman didn't dare smoke. She didn't dare carouse around at some dance that they had some night. There were things like that, but I expect those are about the same as they have nowadays too. I don't know.

Mary Ann: Well, I think probably it's a little bit more lax than it used to be.

Audrey : No one ever did tell me.

Mary Ann: It was just understood?

Audrey : It was just understood.

Mary Ann: Were there any restrictions about marriage?

Audrey : No, they never said anything about marriage.

Mary Ann: Or raising a family at the same time you taught?

No restrictions on that?

Audrey : No, well they never did say anything to me about it.

They might had some for others. I was single at the time.

Mary Ann: Did you have more than one teacher at your school at Franklinville, or were you the only teacher?

Audrey : I was the only teacher.

Mary Ann: Was there a principal for the school?

Audrey : No. We didn't have any principal, but the county superintendent would check on us once in awhile.

Mary Ann: Okay. Was there an evaluation system for the teachers?

Audrey : Well, we had to have our certificates renewed every little bit.

Mary Ann: How often? Do you remember?



Audrey : Well, land look at all these while I was out there at Franklinville. (She showed several teaching certificates here.) There was one. They only lasted three years.

Mary Ann: How did you renew these?

Audrey : We had to go to the county superintendent's office and take an exam. Here's another one. See, we just had to take one every little whipstitch. There's another one. Most all those are out there when I was at Franklinville.

Mary Ann: May I copy these and use them in my paper?

Audrey : Sure. Here's another one.

Mary Ann: Was there any way to study for this test?

Audrey : No, not that I know of.

Mary Ann: Was it the same test every year? The same type of test?

Audrey : It was a written test. There were no true or false or anything. It was all just written tests.

Mary Ann: Essay type questions?

Audrey : Yes, essay type questions. Did you ever see so many things? Here I had to have them just every little bit.

Mary Ann: Renewed about every three years?

Audrey : Just about every three years. Then some of them are in-between and I don't know why we had to have them in-between.

Mary Ann: But they never had any other type of evaluation system, and they didn't come out and watch while you taught or anything?

Audrey : No. Well, the superintendent would come and sit there for a half hour maybe or something. When that half hour was up, she'd have to go.

Mary Ann: But she never stayed and talked to you or gave you any helpful hints?

Audrey : Yes, she'd give us some helpful hints. She or he sometimes, it was Valis Rockwell I think was there for awhile. But they hardly ever criticized anything. They just wanted to know if we needed some more material of some sort that they had in their office I could use. But we didn't have any tape recorders or anything like that. Nothing.

Mary Ann: Hmm. How were the discipline problems with the children handled?

Audrey : How were they handled?

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : I don't know. I never did have any problems.

Mary Ann: Good. That's good. Did you ever involve the parents in any way, as far as the discipline was concerned? If anything came up, then you handled it yourself?

Audrey : I just handled it myself. I never did have anybody come back to me.

Mary Ann: Well, that's good.

Audrey : They were all farmers and busy and everything else I guess.

Mary Ann: Where did you live while you were teaching at Franklinville?

Audrey : I lived well, most of the time four miles east and eight miles south of Ness. Way over there. I had to drive quite a ways.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : In an old rickety car. Then part of the time I stayed.  
In the winter time when it got bad, I stayed with Langs.

Mary Ann: Where did they live?

Audrey : They lived north of where the schoolhouse was. There  
isn't any house there any more. Do you know where  
Koesters are?

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : It's right south of Koesters on that road.

Mary Ann: Okay.

Audrey : There's no buildings there any more. I gave them nine  
dollars a month. I stayed there during the bad months.  
Then I stayed with the Harry Cranstons one year. They  
lived south of the schoolhouse. Quite a ways down  
there in a pasture. I don't know how they ever stood  
it without any bathrooms nor anything. They just  
lived out in the country. Then I went over to  
Mellieses. Reina, was that her name, Reina?

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : She told me I could come over there any time I wanted  
to, and I went over there several times. I stayed all  
night with Beth.

Mary Ann: I know that Nell used to stay there when she taught at Franklinville.

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: You mentioned that you finished at Fort Hays, and you went to Springfield, Missouri. How many years total did you have to go to school in order to get a teaching certificate?

Audrey : Well, I went six summers to Springfield, Missouri. Then I went two years at Fort Hays.

Mary Ann: Did you go in the fall or did you do everything in the summer?

Audrey : No, those were all summers, six summers. No, I was teaching in the fall all of the time.

Mary Ann: At Hays too?

Audrey : At Hays I went back for the full year, two years.

Mary Ann: Two years at Hays, okay. So did you get your first certificate, your original certificate, at Springfield and then you taught after that?

Audrey : My first one?

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : No, I was just eighteen when I got out of high school and got my first one.

Mary Ann: How did you do that?

Audrey : You didn't have to go to college at first when I first started teaching. You could teach right out of high school.

Mary Ann: Oh really? How long did you teach before you had to get certified then or go back to college?

Audrey : I taught thirteen years without having to go back to college. But I did go back to college, but that didn't have anything to do with my teaching. I just went back and got those six summers.

Mary Ann: They didn't require you to do that? You just did that on your own?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: You went into education when you did that?

Audrey : Yes. I went into education when I did that. But of course I took most of the basics like history and all that stuff. But then there were no requirements.

No one ever asked me if I had a certificate or anything. They just hired me.

Mary Ann: You taught like that for thirteen years?

Audrey : Yes. I taught thirteen years like that.

Mary Ann: Then why did you go back to Hays?

Audrey : Well, Yvonne Gantz wanted somebody to ride with her.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : She said, "Audrey, why don't you go with me and just finish your college?" So I thought, well I'll do that. So I went to Hays and I asked them to write into Springfield and get my credits. I never lost a single one.

Mary Ann: Oh really?

Audrey : They just sent them right over to Hays. But I had to work kind of hard because some of my grades weren't as good when I went to Springfield in the summer. I had to work so hard, and I worked in a restaurant from four o'clock in the morning until school started.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : Then at night I worked there. So I had no time to study. Just what I could get out of college. So when I went back to Hays, I had to make straight A's. But I did.

Mary Ann: Well good. But there again you weren't going back because of requirements, you were just going back because it was a good opportunity?

Audrey : Yes, just a good opportunity. So I went with her two years. Yvonne and I both went together. Sometimes we had to go three days a week. Sometimes we went every day. But one winter we had to be there at seven-thirty in the morning. That was kind of early.

Mary Ann: Yes, that is early. Do you remember how many hours that you ended up with when you finally got through at Hays?

Audrey : One hundred and thirty I think.

Mary Ann: Oh really?

Audrey : I think I had one hundred and thirty. One hundred thirty-three or something like that. I don't know for sure, but I think that's right.



Mary Ann: What was the usual age a child began school at Franklinville?

Audrey : I think five. I think they started at five. But most of my kids, some of them I didn't have until they started or had been someplace else to school. So I had seven and nine year olds and all the way down.

Mary Ann: So it varied. Like you said, they didn't always come to you at the age of five.

Audrey : No. Then I had those two little kids that year.

Mary Ann: Right. Well, where had they been earlier?

Audrey : They had lived in Montana.

Mary Ann: Oh, they moved.

Audrey : When they were coming home down the mountain, they had a car wreck and their mother was killed. So I had the kids and that's how come. The baby was only about two.

Mary Ann: Would that family be an exception? Would most of the children that came to Franklinville start at five and then went on up in the grades?

Audrey : No, no. Then I had Langs' kids. They had gone to the parochial school in town for awhile and they didn't want to go to the parochial school anymore, so they came out there. Those girls, I think, were seventh grade or something like that. There were two girls and I think they were both in the same grade.

Mary Ann: So you did have several people moving in and out of the school?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: Did this happen quite often?

Audrey : That was my second year I was there.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : But they started down there. Then I had them the third year, and then I had them in . . .

Mary Ann: In '35?

Audrey : Yes, in '35.

Mary Ann: Except for that one year where you had those kids from Montana, most of the time they stayed there. Once they started, they stayed?

Audrey : Yes. Then they moved with me when I went over to Pembleton. Then they moved over there so they'd still be with me and I had them another year.

Mary Ann: What was the greatest distance traveled by any student, and what type of transportation did they use?

Audrey : Most of them walked. The Langs' kids walked most of the time, until the weather got bad, and then they had a horse.

Mary Ann: That would be about four miles, wouldn't it have been?

Audrey : That was only about a mile and a half north of the schoolhouse.

Mary Ann: Oh, I thought you said it was up by Koesters.

Audrey : About a mile south of Koesters.

Mary Ann: Okay, my mileage isn't too good then.

Audrey : Then I had to get over there which ever way. I had an old rickety car.

Mary Ann: Oh.

Audrey : I got over there and stayed when the winter got bad.

Mary Ann: What about the children that came from the parochial school? That was in town?

Audrey : Langs.

Mary Ann: Okay.

Audrey : The Langs' children.

Mary Ann: Oh, they were sending them to town before, and then they started sending them over there. And they walked?

Audrey : They walked most of the time until the weather got bad. Then they had kind of an old horse outfit that they brought to school. A wagon or something or other.

Mary Ann: Who lived the farthest away of your students?

Audrey : I don't know where the Rohrs lived. I had Dorinda Rohr. I think she lived two or three miles, but they always picked her up and brought her.

Mary Ann: In a car?

Audrey : Yes. They brought her, but I don't know for sure where she lived. I don't think there's a house there anymore.

Mary Ann: So you think she had the farthest to come?

Audrey : I think she had the farthest.

Mary Ann: Okay. You already told me your first year that you had one student.

Audrey : That's right.

Mary Ann: Then you had up to as many as nine?

Audrey : I had nine or ten.

Mary Ann: Nine or ten.

Audrey : That is now at Franklinville.

Mary Ann: Yes. Do you remember what grade levels? I know that you said you taught all grade levels, but if you can remember back, do you remember exactly and come close to what grade levels you taught?

Audrey : I think those Langs girls were seventh.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : I don't think I had an eighth. I think they were in eighth grade the year I left. They were seventh grade. Then I had sixth, and fifth, and I don't know.

Mary Ann: It just varied every year?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: Okay. Have you kept track of some of those students?  
Do you know what occupations they have now?

Audrey : Yes, some of them. I know Martina Lang, the girl  
I had in the seventh grade. She lives out here in  
the country. She has arthritis so bad. I see her  
every once in awhile.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : I went down to their little reception they had. The  
other girls were there.

Mary Ann: Oh, I bet that was fun.

Audrey : Yes. I did that, oh, about three months ago. They  
called. Then Luke Meis, I had Luke in school. Of  
course, he passed away.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : And Ernest, he was graduated in the Air Force. I don't  
know for sure where he is. I haven't seen him just  
lately, but he went to the Air Force.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : He got to be a big guy. Austin, he married Ramona Meis down here. Kaiser, you probably call him . . .

Mary Ann: Kaiser.

Audrey : I had him. He hauls water from oil wells or something.

Mary Ann: He farms a little bit, doesn't he?

Audrey : He farms. Joanne, she's out at Scott City. She works at, oh, she sells property.

Mary Ann: Real estate?

Audrey : Real estate.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : That's what she does. I don't know what the other ones have done.

Mary Ann: So, did very many of them go on to college?

Audrey : I can't think any of those . . . Ernest did when he got into the Air Force. But I don't think a single one of them I know of when on to college.

Mary Ann: What was the average number of years those students went to school? Did they go ahead and finish high school?

Audrey : I don't think so. Not at that time. Everything was so hard up, they were so hard up, I guess. The girls went out and worked.

Mary Ann: When did they start? How long did they stay in school?

Audrey : I think they finished their eighth grade.

Mary Ann: Eighth grade?

Audrey : Yes. But as far as I know they didn't go to high school.

Mary Ann: Was that the norm back then to . . .

Audrey : Yes, that was norm back then.

Mary Ann: It was unusual to go on to high school then?

Audrey : Yes. Luke went on to high school.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : See, he was one that was a few years behind them. But he finished his high school.



Mary Ann: Was that what happened usually with the younger ones? The older ones went out to work, and the younger ones usually got to finish school?

Audrey : That's the way it happened. The older ones had to go out and make a little money for mom and dad, I guess.

Mary Ann: Were there any outstanding students from the school? You know, as teachers, we think all our students are outstanding, but have any of them received any outstanding awards of any kind?

Audrey : I don't know as they have any awards really. Up north they keep advertising a scholarship, the Luke Meis scholarship.

Mary Ann: It's a scholarship at Beloit?

Audrey : Yes, Luke Meis scholarship. It's on refrigeration and air conditioning. They give a scholarship every year to some student to come take that through the Luke Meis scholarship fund. That's kind of an honor.

Mary Ann: That is, that is an honor.

Audrey : Ernest, he was in the Air Force. He's had a lot of scholarships and things like that. They've been

giving them out for him, for his Air Force stuff. He was in the Air Force. I don't know how far he went, but, he went up to the top of whatever is in the Air Force.

Mary Ann: I see. That was outstanding.

Audrey : Yes, it was outstanding.

Mary Ann: What was the cost of education to the student and his or her family?

Audrey : It didn't cost anything.

Mary Ann: Oh really?

Audrey : They didn't have any charge.

Mary Ann: No payments whatsoever? They didn't pay for the textbooks or rent the textbooks?

Audrey : They just went to school. There were no fees of any kind.

Mary Ann: Okay. Let's talk a little about the school building itself. Why was the school built, do you know?

Audrey : I don't know. (Here she showed some notes she had taken from the courthouse.) This one talks about in

1898 it was organized by the Superintendent, so I don't know why it was built. But the salary was one hundred and fifty dollars for a five month period to start with. That's from way back when it started. But they had a budget of one hundred sixty-three dollars to run the school term.

Mary Ann: For the whole term?

Audrey : Yes. Of course when it first started, they had fifteen to twenty students. Here's the names of them. (Here she showed the list of names taken from the notes she had taken from the courthouse.) It says they began when they were five. This F. B. Morse was the teacher. He didn't have any certificates, I know. He was just a man who decided to teach. He finally got to be such an old fella. I think he was eighty when he quit teaching.

Mary Ann: He was the teacher before you then?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: You replaced him?

Audrey : No, he taught before me. That was in the 1900's. That was before I was born. Then that other, Stone. .

Otis Stone, taught before. He decided to teach down South. So I rode with Otis. He'd go at seven o'clock in the morning. I didn't like that, but then I stayed in town one winter. I didn't have any car. Otis Stone taught part of the time down there. They didn't have any certificates. They'd just get somebody to teach and that was it.

Mary Ann: What were the boundaries of Franklinville's jurisdiction?

Audrey : Well, anything up to Langs'. That was the north line, just north of Koesters'. Then east, they had a different school over there. It wasn't very far east. Just to the road I guess. But I don't know where Dorinda Rohr came from. She would have had to have been over there someplace, east of that road that goes south down there. But there was another school over there. Margaret Wilson taught it when I was down there. It wasn't there too long. They didn't have school too long. Then south, I don't know, there weren't any more schools . . .

Mary Ann: Manteno would have been south and west.

Audrey : Yes, but that was too far down.

Mary Ann: Right.

Audrey : The Petersilie school was down there too, you know.

Mary Ann: Oh really?

Audrey : Yes, it was down there south. So I just imagine it would be two or three miles south of the schoolhouse.

Mary Ann: That might be in some of this information in this book here (book on Ness County history). Was there a school board for your school?

Audrey : Yes. When you went to get your checks, you had to go to one and get a receipt of some sort, that you wanted your money.

Mary Ann: One of the school board members?

Audrey : Yes, one of the school board members. Then you had to take it to the other two and get it signed. Then you'd go back to the first one and get your check.

Mary Ann: Oh, that was interesting.

Audrey : That was it.

Mary Ann: Do you remember any of the school board members at the time?

Audrey : Yes. Sam Stone, that old man, wasn't his name Sam?

Yes, old Sam Stone, Louis Koester, and Justa Shauers were on it.

Mary Ann: You had to go and look them up yourself?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: Go to their homes or to their . . .

Audrey : Yes, I had to find them and go after my check all the time.

Mary Ann: Was there a certain time you were to get your check?

Audrey : Yes, there was a certain time of the month that your check was due.

Mary Ann: You got paid every month?

Audrey : We got paid every month.

Mary Ann: You had to go and get it yourself?

Audrey : I had to go find them. Sometimes you couldn't find those guys. They might be out in the field, in the middle of the field someplace. You went to get their signature and then you'd take it back to the first one and then you could get your check. Well, that's the way it goes.

Mary Ann: Are any of those men still living?

Audrey : No, there aren't any of them still living.

Mary Ann: Did any of the Stone children . . . or would they  
have been too old, Sam's children?

Audrey : No, the family all lived in town.

Mary Ann: Oh. That's right.

Audrey : Sam lived out there by himself.

Mary Ann: Did Franklinville have an organization similiar to  
PTA?

Audrey : No.

Mary Ann: Okay. So, who hired and fired the teachers? Whose  
responsibility was that?

Audrey : Well, I suppose the school board. But I know Bill  
Mellies was on it before the other school board came  
along. Bill Mellies, he was the one who hired.

Mary Ann: Do you remember who hired you? Who did you talk to  
to get your position?

Audrey : Well, there was lady hired after we took our exams.  
I think it was that Stone girl. She was hired to

teach that school, but she didn't pass her exams. So, they said she couldn't go out to teach if she didn't. So I was living with Mrs. Floyd and her sister was Mattie Mitchell. I worked there in the county office for a few months after school was out. Their school wasn't out over there. So she said just to let me go down there and teach it. So she called Bill and said she had a teacher and he hired me. I guess Bill Mellies was the one that kind of took over.

Mary Ann: But you never did interview, or talk to him?

Audrey : No.

Mary Ann: She just put the good word in for you?

Audrey : Yes. You see, the Floyds put me through high school.

Mary Ann: Chesney?

Audrey : Yes. Mrs. Floyd worked in the office with her sister. That's her sister, Mattie Mitchell. In the county superintendent's office. So that's how I got it. I passed the exam and this other girl didn't.



Mary Ann: This exam you had to pass, was it just basic information you had learned in high school? Or did it have any bearing on teaching itself?

Audrey : Not really. They might ask you some questions on how do they teach this in England, or over in Germany, how did they teach so-and-so. You had to know. We had books that we had to look up all this stuff before the exam.

Mary Ann: Oh, they did give you some things to study before you took the exam?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: So the exam wasn't just over basic information.

Audrey : No. Some of it was pretty rough. Maybe, to see how smart you were, name the Presidents up to the present date. You'd have to write down the names of all the Presidents.

Mary Ann: When would they do this?

Audrey : That would be one of your questions.

Mary Ann: For your re-certification? When you got one of these certificates?

Audrey : Yes. Let's see, we had spelling, reading, and writing. You had to talk all those exams in different subjects: geography, arithmetic, United States history, and Kansas history. Then there was an English history. You had to know something about all those things.

Mary Ann: So your first test, right out of high school, was tested over these books you were given about teaching?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: So when you were re-certifying, were you asked any of these questions over teaching, or did they just ask you basic information questions?

Audrey : They were questions probably in these books they had given us. One of the questions we always knew was going to be are the five essentials of life. You had to put down the five, and that was food, the environment of the home, and all that stuff. It was in these books if you could find it. Sometimes you'd have to search for it.

Mary Ann: Were you allowed to use the books during the test?

Audrey : Oh, no.

Mary Ann: You didn't have the questions before you took the test?

Audrey : No, they were just sent out from the state. When they started, see some of these are county, teacher's county certificates (Here she showed copies of different certificates.). Then they went to state. See, here's a state one. Now here's a county one. When it was a county one, it was made out by someone in the county. When it was a state one, you had to get it from someone in the state.

Mary Ann: Was there quite a bit difference in the questions between the state and county tests?

Audrey : Oh, quite a bit difference. The state's were much tougher. They went back to history books and you had never heard of some of the questions. You had to write it in. There were no multiple choice. You had to write it, write it in good handwriting, cursive writing. You know, that's another thing. They're using manuscript writing in some of the grades now. We didn't have it at that time. It was always cursive. We called it printing. You know little kids would always start printing when they started school. By the time they were in second grade, they got to go into cursive. But now any more, they call it, uh . . .

Mary Ann: D'Nealian.

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: That's a new way of printing. I had to learn that myself this year.

Audrey : That's the slanted type.

Mary Ann: Yes, with the curve up on the end of the letters now. They're not straight block letters like they were.

Audrey : Oh, they're not?

Mary Ann: No, it's quite a bit different.

Audrey : I heard Doris say something about that down there at Chase. What do you call that writing?

Mary Ann: D'Nealian.

Audrey : D'Nealian?

Mary Ann: Yes. It takes some getting used to.

Audrey : We just called it manuscript in our day. But everything was a block. We had to have block letters, straight up and down. Now it's slant?

Mary Ann: Yes, slant.

Audrey : No, the slant comes from way back before I started.

Mary Ann: Oh, really?

Audrey : Yes. They had the slant. If you'll look at this cursive writing, it's all a slant. Then we went to the straight up and down. Now they're going back to the slant. I noticed our little granddaughter, she was doing some of that. I said, "Do you make those like that?" She said, "sure." I said, "How do you make your r's? Do you make your r's just like we do?" You know just before I went to teaching they started making their r's like this.

Mary Ann: It's funny how things swing back. Did you have any activities between the country schools themselves? Did they have any sports activities or anything?

Audrey : Yes, we had basketball.

Mary Ann: You had basketball.

Audrey : Yes, but we had to play out in an open court. Sometimes we'd play basketball and we didn't have two goals, we just had one goal, so we had to play kind of a half and half.

Mary Ann: Yes. They'd play these at the schools?

Audrey : One school would go to the other school. That was only about twice a year.

Mary Ann: Did they have any other activities? Did you have any picnics or anything like that?

Audrey : Yes we had picnics. But we didn't have much with the parents. It was always one school would come to the other school. The teacher would bring them over. We had races and stuff like that. That was only about twice a year. They wouldn't let us have too many. I think about twice a year was about all we were permitted.

Mary Ann: The parents never got involved?

Audrey : Not that I know of. Then we'd have a program once a year, Christmas time. Then the parents would come and watch their little ones.

Mary Ann: Now that was just mainly in your school yourself. You didn't involve other schools?

Audrey : No. We did with that east school. Margaret Wilson and I would have ours together. We both had it together because we both had such small schools. Then we had our programs together.

Mary Ann: Where was her school? Which one was it?

Audrey : Well, I don't know what the name of it is. It's gone now, but I can't think of the name of it. It was east.

Mary Ann: East of Franklinville?

Audrey : Yes, it was east of Franklinville. It was about three miles, or something like that.

Mary Ann: These schools must have been located fairly close together, then?

Audrey : They were. They were close together. That got to be the problem. There were so many schools, I guess you could go to whichever one you wanted. I don't know. See, Petersilie school was south of us a ways. I don't think it was very large. Manteno was always a big school.

Mary Ann: Yes. Do you know why Franklinville closed?

Audrey : Let's see. Did I teach the last year there? I believe that's the reason I moved. I think we closed that year. I can't think why. I don't remember.

Mary Ann: Okay.

Audrey : I don't really remember.

Mary Ann: The ground that the school set on, was it purchased or given to the school?

Audrey : You know, I don't remember. I really don't know. I've got here when it was started.

Mary Ann: Did the Mellieses farm around this building? It sat there on that quarter.

Audrey : I think that was grass at that time. I think that was pasture land. I'm quite sure that was pasture.

Mary Ann: It wasn't farmed at all?

Audrey : I don't think so.

Mary Ann: Did they own it at the time the school was on it?

Audrey : You know, I don't know. I kind of think that was Mellies' property. I don't remember any farming going on.

Mary Ann: It's all in wheat right now.

Audrey : This doesn't say anything. It says it was Mellies school, organized in 1898. I don't know. I got



this up at the courthouse. See the first records of everything were destroyed when the basement was flooded at the Courthouse. You probably don't remember that.

Mary Ann: I've heard people talk about it.

Audrey : Their records were all soaked up. They had to get rid of them. So what the records have out there are very few.

Mary Ann: Now you've already said that it didn't cost anything for the student to enroll.

Audrey : No. But when I first started, they had to buy their own books, though. They had to buy their own books. They didn't belong to the district or anything.

Mary Ann: This was at Franklinville?

Audrey : Yes, the kids had to buy their own books. You got them up at the drugstore. The drugstore handled all the books. You bought your books. They were ordered from the superintendent's office.

Mary Ann: Okay.

Audrey : Of course down there we had a little tiny library. It was real tiny. I don't suppose it had over

fifteen books in it. So, that's all they had. We had a dictionary. I think probably only one.

Mary Ann: This was in the school building itself?

Audrey : In the school building itself. A few books, I remember some of those books were outdated way back. I don't think the kids hardly looked at them. They must have been England history. Those kids bought their own books.

Mary Ann: Did they use them ever again, the next year?  
Could they pass them down?

Audrey : Yes, that's what they did, pass them down to the next one.

Mary Ann: How often would you change books?

Audrey : I can't remember if we ever changed books at that time. We didn't change any books at that time.

Mary Ann: So the initial cost would be at that time, if a family continued in the same school to be . . .

Audrey : A book cost probably a quarter at that time. It surely didn't cost any more than that.

Mary Ann: That's something that's definitely changed.

Audrey : Yes, you bet that's definitely changed.

Mary Ann: What was your salary when you first started teaching?

Audrey : Eighty dollars.

Mary Ann: Eighty dollars a month, or eighty dollars for the full term?

Audrey : Eighty dollars a month. I've got it down here someplace. I got eighty dollars the first month for the first year. Then the second year I got fifty. They cut it clear down.

Mary Ann: Oh, really?

Audrey : Yes. If you wanted a job, you had to get it. That's when the hard times were. Then the third year I think I got forty. I think I've got it here someplace. I got forty the next year. That was the lowest I ever got. Then I went to Riverside. Riverside offered me quite a bit more money to come down there. I think I got something like eighty dollars down there. Then when Riverside, because it was such a big school, had thirty some kids or something like that. Then the

next year, they begged me to come back to Franklinville.

I decided I liked those kids so, I just came back.

Mary Ann: What was your salary then? Did they increase it?

Audrey : Something like sixty-five or something.

Mary Ann: It came up a little bit.

Audrey : Yes. I tell you, times were really rough.

Mary Ann: What particularly was the cause? Was it the drought?

Audrey : I guess dust storms and all of that stuff.

Mary Ann: Okay.

Audrey : I've got it here someplace (notes from Courthouse).

Mary Ann: Okay. Can I go ahead and make a copy of this?

Audrey : Yes, you may.

Mary Ann: Did you experience a lot of dust storms there in the school building?

Audrey : Oh yes, we had lots of dust storms. Let's see, I taught there during when the dust storms were. We had lots of dust. The dust would get thick on everything.

When I'd get there first thing in the morning, you know those buildings weren't very tight . . . They didn't farm north of there, I'm sure that was pasture. But then south there, it was plowed, and pasture and dirt would get pretty thick there. But as far as the school day, we hadn't noticed too much dust. Our thickest ones were in the summertime.

Mary Ann: So your attendance didn't change just because of the dust storms. They kept coming to school.

Audrey : No, they didn't change because of the dust storms. That was during the dust storm days. I don't know, you notice how silage kept coming down, down, down. There was about a dozen teachers wanting every school. They really needed jobs. If you wanted a job, you took the salary they gave you.

Mary Ann: Oh? So there were more teachers than there were jobs?

Audrey : Yes. You see, the certificates weren't so hard to get.

Mary Ann: Right.

Audrey : Everybody that got out of high school that's as far as they'd go. You didn't have to go to college.

There were a lot of them. I know when I applied to that North Star that time, I know they said there was something like seventeen or eighteen applicants for that school. Something like that, you'd better come down if you want your job.

Mary Ann: Yes. Were these mostly women?

Audrey : No, some of them were men. Leo Ford taught around here for quite a little bit. We had, I don't know, about half and half. Men, if they didn't have jobs, they'd try and get a school. Some of them thought it would be better to have men around when you had big boys in school. They thought it would be better to have men. I don't know if it made any difference. When I was at North Star I had this Alvin Dieser, and he was a great big husky fella. I was really afraid of him. He would kind of get mad sometimes. We'd just treat him casual.

Mary Ann: Being there by yourself, that would be scary.

Audrey : He'd help me sweep after school and everything, but I sure didn't want him to get mad at me. Then when I

taught at Riverside I had that . . . shoot I can't . . .  
Rebel, Norbert Rebel. He was a big fella. He'd  
want to help me. He wanted to date me, and I thought  
golly, golly, I was too busy.

Mary Ann: There weren't any restrictions on dating, then?

Audrey : No. They never did say anything about any restrictions  
on dating. There aren't now either are there?

Mary Ann: No, not that I know of. How did they decide what  
your salary was going to be?

Audrey : Well, we just sent our application in. You didn't  
put any salary on it, you just applied for the job.  
Then when they'd call you, they'd say our salary is  
so-and-so, whatever it was. Then if you wanted the  
school you'd tell them you were interested.

Mary Ann: You had no voice then whatsoever in your salary. Like  
you said before, there were so many that wanted the  
job you took what they offered.

Audrey : You took what they offered if you wanted a job. You  
don't say, "I'll teach for ten dollars more than that."  
They'd say they could get so-and-so. Money was scarce,  
it really was.

Mary Ann: Did you find it difficult to live on fifty dollars a month?

Audrey : I never got the checks. I had to give them all to my dad. I was living at home. He'd give me a dollar or two or three. No, everything was so tight at that time, and mama was sick.

Mary Ann: Was a teacher's salary a pretty good salary compared to other occupations at that time?

Audrey : Well, a man was working at one dollar and a half an hour at that time. Teaching was better than that. I don't know. I remember my brother worked for a dollar and a half a day.

Mary Ann: A dollar and a half a day, or a dollar and a half an hour?

Audrey : A dollar and a half an hour. So you see, things were really tight. You better be glad you didn't go through these times.

Mary Ann: It sounds rough, it really does.

Audrey : It was.



Mary Ann: Is there anything else you'd like to add to the interview? Any particular experiences that you had that you'd like to talk about?

Audrey : No, I don't particularly know, but I know besides teaching, we had to do other things. Now when I was at Franklinville, of course there were no curtains on the windows, or anything. I know one year, I don't remember who it was, I guess it was Mrs. Rupp, said she would help me make the curtains if we could get the thread. But we decided to make kind of a blind. We made kind of a blind because the sun got so hot. So we put some blinds up on the windows. They weren't the roll away kind, we didn't have rolls. We just tacked them up there. We listed them up and put them down.

Mary Ann: Were you in charge of the maintenance then, as far as painting the outside too?

Audrey : No, I didn't have anything to do with that. They did that in the summer when there was no school there. I don't know who they got to paint. They did have it painted. The schoolhouse was never locked. We never did have the key to the schoolhouse. That's different from today.

Mary Ann: Yes it is.

Audrey : But we never lost anything either.

Mary Ann: What type of heating, lighting, and toilets were available?

Audrey : We had outside toilets, way out there. Those wood outside toilets. They weren't even the government kind. They were just plain old toilets out there. They had about three holes, or something like that. The boys were on one side and the girls were on the other side of the coal shed, a big coal shed.

Mary Ann: The heat was from . . .

Audrey : A pot belly stove in the middle of the room.

Mary Ann: It burned wood?

Audrey : It burned wood and coal. We had to fill it.

Mary Ann: The coal was provided for you? I know you said you cut the wood yourself, you and the kids.

Audrey : Yes. The coal was brought in. I think they had the Co-op come down and fill it. Then we had to haul it in.

Mary Ann: What about water? Was there a well?

Audrey : We had a cistern. There used to be a cistern out there. We'd get the water from the cistern. I don't know if they had real well or not. They'd fill it up every year.

Mary Ann: What about lighting?

Audrey : We didn't have any lights. No electricity or anything like that at Franklinville.

Mary Ann: The name of the school was Franklinville. Did it have any significance?

Audrey : I don't know really where it got that Franklinville name.

Mary Ann: It wasn't a district or anything like that?

Audrey : District twelve is all I know.

Mary Ann: Well there's Franklin township. I wonder if that had anything to do with it?

Audrey : That might have had something to do with it because it was Franklin township. I never did think about why they called it Franklinville.

Mary Ann: You mentioned before that it had several names.

Audrey : Yes, just like the Petersilie school. I don't know whether Petersilie is the real name on it or not. North, there was Sunshine. I don't know where they got that name Sunshine.

Mary Ann: It was called Franklinville when you taught there?

Audrey : Yes. Some people would call it the Stone School; some would call it the Mellies School.

Mary Ann: Can you tell a little bit about the interior of the building?

Audrey : It was just plain wood walls. They were panel. The walls were painted white just like the outside. There weren't any screens on the windows. We could open the windows, but no screens. It had a stage. You had to step up. All the schools at that time had a stage.

Mary Ann: Oh really? Did you use it for plays and things like that?

Audrey : If we had plays, they'd be up there. Down off the stage we had a big long bench, a seat. We'd recite our classes up there. That's another thing different from

what they do now. You wouldn't have any need to do that up here with only one grade in a class. You might call a sixth grade English class or a sixth grade reading class, and they'd come up to the stage and do their recitations. Then the little tots, sometimes you'd have a couple of little girls or boys, you were trying to teach them to read. As a rule, we'd always sit back at their seat because their seat was so small. The teacher would put her chair right beside them and listen to them. That's the way it was taught at that time.

Mary Ann: What were the desks like?

Audrey : At first we had those desks that you just shoved the books in. They were a flat desk. Then later we had the kind that lifted up. They had a little ink well in the corner.

Mary Ann: Were you in charge of the upkeep of the building?  
Did they ever send anyone out?

Audrey : No, I don't think anybody ever came out to look things over. The superintendent came out every once in awhile.

Mary Ann: Was the building ever painted, as far as you know,  
while you were teaching?

Audrey : Yes, they painted it in the summer time. I think it  
was painted twice the four years I was there.

Mary Ann: So they did take good care of it?

Audrey : They took good care of it.

Mary Ann: Were there any physical changes that happened to the  
schoolhouse while you were teaching?

Audrey : I can't think of any. They would oil our floor.  
It was a wood floor. They'd give it some kind of  
coat of oil. That's what they used in old schools.  
They did that in the summer time.

Mary Ann: Were there any problems with the building?

Audrey : No, I don't think so.

Mary Ann: Did you have an entrance room for the children's coats?

Audrey : We just had nails on the wall and benches under the  
nails along the wall.

Mary Ann: In all one room?

Audrey : In all one room. We had a water bucket back there.  
We had dippers. Everybody drank out of the same  
dippers.

Mary Ann: They'd really frown on that today, wouldn't they?

Audrey : They'd frown on that today, yes sir. It didn't seem  
like it bothered them.

Mary Ann: What happened to the schoolhouse?

Audrey : It was moved to town. Mrs. Lee Graves lived in it.  
Do you know her?

Mary Ann: Mrs. Ina Graves? That was her house?

Audrey : That was the schoolhouse. If you want to see it, you  
just go over to where Ina Graves lived, and that's it.

Mary Ann: It's bricked isn't it now?

Audrey : No.

Mary Ann: No changes?

Audrey : It's about the same only when they took the schoolhouse  
down, they had to take out the windows on one side.  
They paneled it up.

Mary Ann: Were you ever inside it after she moved into it?

Audrey : I was inside it not very long ago when she had a sale. Ruby Mellies and I looked it all over. The only thing they had done was that they had put a wall down the middle of it. Ina Graves wanted a bedroom. So half of that schoolhouse is her front room and half of it is her bedroom. Then over toward the end, she put a bathroom and kitchen. That's our schoolhouse we looked at.

Mary Ann: Yes.

Audrey : They've built on a little thing on the south of it, a kind of porch. It's closed in. Now I understand Raymond Schuler has bought it. So I guess that's where it is now.

Mary Ann: I knew it sold. I didn't realize that was the schoolhouse. Was that interesting for you to go in there?

Audrey : Yes it was.

Mary Ann: I bet that brought back quite a few memories.

Audrey : Sure it did. It would have been nice if we could have had that bathroom when we had that schoolhouse out there.



Mary Ann: That's true. What happened to the equipment after they closed it?

Audrey : You know, I don't know. Someone said they sold it. I don't ever remember there being an auction. There wouldn't have been enough for an auction. We did have a record player finally.

Mary Ann: Oh really? I bet the kids liked that.

Audrey : Yes. We only had two records.

Mary Ann: What were they?

Audrey : One was that military band playing. The other was "America the Beautiful". That's all the records we had.

Mary Ann: Did you buy a lot of things for the school?

Audrey : No. I would order things from the superintendent. I'd tell her what I wanted. We'd get a few things. You didn't get things like you get nowadays. They would furnish books for the teachers.

Mary Ann: Those were your books. They were teacher's manuals?

Audrey : Teacher's manuals. We had to leave them there when we left. She'd furnish us with records for us to keep

track of our daily records, grades, and things like that. They furnished crayons one year. Not enough I don't think for all the kids. One year they brought us a whole bunch of old magazines that someone didn't want. We thought we had something great when we had those old magazines.

Mary Ann: So did you have very many art projects?

Audrey : Most of our art projects were drawing. I tried to teach them a little about perception.

Mary Ann: You mentioned you taught music. Did they provide you with anything?

Audrey : We had our own stuff. I had a violin.

Mary Ann: You weren't provided with very many teaching aids, then.

Audrey : No.

Mary Ann: Did they provide chalk?

Audrey : Yes, that is one expense. However, they wouldn't give you enough to amount to anything.

Mary Ann: What about paper?

Audrey : The kids had to furnish their own tablets. One year, I think it was that one year, they furnished us some

flour. We had to make hasty pudding. The kids would bring milk to school. Did you ever eat hasty pudding?

Mary Ann: No.

Audrey : Well, it's just flour and water and a little vanilla in it. We thought it was pretty good. We'd have it at noon for part of our lunches. We had hot lunches one winter there. Each family would take turns bringing something to put on the stove for lunch.

Mary Ann: Did you have playground equipment?

Audrey : We had a ball, I know that.

Mary Ann: Did you have swings?

Audrey : We had swings. One year when I was teaching up at North Star, Henry Schuler was swinging and he broke both of his arms. I had to dismiss school and take him to the doctor. We had no telephone at school. All the other schools I taught at did. We didn't have much of anything.

Mary Ann: Were the schoolhouses used for other things than just schools?

Audrey : Yes. However, Franklinville I don't think, was ever

used for anything. It might have been for their board meeting, if the board ever got together. I don't think they ever got together much. If they did, they probably did that over at Mellies'.

Mary Ann: The superintendent lived in town?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: This was a woman?

Audrey : Well, part of the time it was. I think we had Rockwell. I had Mattie Mitchell, I know that.

Mary Ann: Your last year was in 1943, and that was in Ness?

Audrey : No I taught at Sunshine in '43. That was the year I got married. After I married I didn't want to teach anymore. Social security back at that time, years on your retirement, see they gave us ten years credit when they started. That's when the retirement first started. Then I taught so many years and that's what they took out. I drew all of it out.

Mary Ann: When did you teach at Ness?

Audrey : I quit eleven years ago. I think eleven years. What was eleven years ago?

Mary Ann: '78?

Audrey : Yes, '78. That's when I quit.

Mary Ann: So you taught from '31 to '43, and then you started back again? When did you start back?

Audrey : Let's see. I graduated from Hays in '72. I started back in '72, I believe it was. I taught seven more years.

Mary Ann: Some of those were at Ness?

Audrey : In third grade at Ness.

Mary Ann: All that was in third grade at Ness?

Audrey : Four of it was. Three years was at Beeler. I had all those grades out there.

Mary Ann: When they closed Beeler, then did you move to Ness?

Audrey : Yes. I taught the last year out there at Beeler.

Mary Ann: So you started in '72 at Beeler. Then you taught there until they closed Beeler. Then you moved to Ness and taught third grade at Ness. Why did you go back to teaching?

Audrey : Mr. Goff asked me if I'd like to, so I did.

Mary Ann: Then in '78 you decided you wanted to retire?

Audrey : Yes. They said I didn't have to, I was only sixty-five then. But I wanted to do some traveling. Mr. Goff asked me who I would recommend. I recommended Betty Dexter because she had been in my room and I said I would recommend her very highly.

Mary Ann: She was a student teacher?

Audrey : Yes. I also had Mrs. Marshall when she was taking her block. They asked me if I would recommend her, and I told them I would.

Mary Ann: Had things changed a lot since '43?

Audrey : No, not a whole lot. They say that kids are so much smarter now than they were. I don't think they're any smarter, they've got more things presented to them.

Mary Ann: Were there quite a bit of difference in your salary?

Audrey : Oh, I suppose. I don't really remember how much I was getting. My check out here would be five hundred and something dollars. I had them take out a hundred dollars and put it into a little fund. Then I had them take out my NEA dues.

Mary Ann: You did belong to NEA then?

Audrey : Yes.

Mary Ann: Was there an organization like that when you were in Franklinville?

Audrey : No. Well we had a teacher's organization that I belonged to. I think it was a county teachers association.

Mary Ann: What was the purpose of that?

Audrey : Well, we'd get together and have a speaker. We'd discuss various values we wanted to carry out in our schools. I learned a lot as to what was going on in other schools.

Mary Ann: It wasn't similiar to NEA?

Audrey : No.

Mary Ann: Were you able to build up any retirement while you were at Ness?

Audrey : KPERS. I get eighty-three dollars a month.

Mary Ann: Well, is there anything else you'd like to talk about that I didn't bring up?

Audrey : I think you pretty well covered about everything.

Mary Ann: Well, I really appreciate you letting me have this  
interview.

Audrey : I'm glad to help you.

Mary Ann: Okay, thank you.