

Interview with Jim Brown

Conducted by NVMS Students

April 30, 2002

The individual students and classroom is unknown.

Transcribed by Darleen CREECY Cole in 2005

Students: Hi!

Jim: Hi!

Student: Okay.... okay... what did this area look like before you came here?

Jim: Well, when I came here, there weren't very many houses to live in... probably today there are three houses for every one in the high school district... all these houses that are up here on the creek, going out Three Rivers and out this side of Beaver... none of those were there..the hill in Pacific City, there weren't any houses up on the hill in Pacific City... so, uh... in those days, the dairies were smaller... they... lots more dairies, but they were much smaller...

Student: Yeah, the dairy population has gone down...

Jim: It's gone down... the dairies have gotten larger and they've taken in the smaller dairies, and the first year or two I was here, why they were hauling the milk in to the little creameries in ten gallon cream cans, or milk cans, as we used to call 'em...

Student: I was looking at a picture of my... I think it either great... what? It was either of my great grandpa or my great-great grandpa, but he was riding on a wagon with my... um... great-great grandma and great-great... great grandma, and they were riding on a wagon and they had the milk cans in the back... it was in the Tillamook Dairy magazine...

Jim: Oh, yeah... yeah, that's the way it was all hauled until they moved everything up to Tillamook and put the big cheese factory up there... when I first came here, there was a cheese factory at Oretown, at Central, at Cloverdale, at Hebo, at Beaver, and at East Beaver up there. And Sandlake.

Student: Do you remember a cheese factory on Meda Loop Road?

Jim: Do I remember what?

Student: A cheese by Meda Loop Road...

Jim: No, I don't remember any out there... not when I came...

Student: ... I don't know where it was...

Jim: Probably at one time... because they didn't haul it very far when they hauled it with teams and wagons.

Student: Probably, what? The most, five miles?

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Jim: Oh, I s'pose something like that... probably be about it.

Student: Did you know about... there was supposedly a ferret killing farm on my... on Meda Loop Road... and they killed ferrets there?

Jim: I don't remember anything about that.

Student: I don't know how long ago it was.

Jim: Yeah. No, I don't remember... there were several mink farms around...

Student: Yeah, that's what I was meaning... minks...

Jim: Oh, that's what you meant, was mink... okay... yeah... I don't remember one there, but I remember there was one up by Beaver and there was one out on Hiway 22, and there was some over at Pacific City and Woods and in that area... But I don't remember one at Meda Loop... but there coulda' been...

Student: What were the... what were the students like when you first came to the school?

Jim: They were good... very good students. They...

Student: No problems?

Jim: No... well, everybody has a little problem... but these kids came to school... they... when they went home they usually had to work on the dairy or whatever their parents did, and they didn't have a lot of time to be running around or anything, and they participated... the boys all participated in athletics... we had... I think the first year I was here we had 65 boys out for football...

Student: 65! How many were in the school?

Jim: About 250 if I remember correctly in 19...

Student: Total students...

Jim: Total students...

Student: Hmmm... so about a third of the school went out for football...

Jim: Yeah! Oh, yeah... over half the boys did...

Student: The girls didn't play football?

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Jim: No... well, we had a powderpuff football game in those days, and after the football season was over and it was nice and muddy (laughing) we had a powderpuff football game, and I would coach the one team and teacher John Leinhart would teach the other... or coach the other team... and the freshman and seniors would play the sophomores and juniors, and it was quite a game...

Student: Did you have all the high school students together back then on one team... the freshman through seniors on one team?

Jim: We had JV football, I think, but we didn't have any freshman football...

Student: Hmm.... would you say that the student behavior has got worse from when you first started to when you ended principaling?

Jim: Oh, no, not necessarily.... most of the student problems we had were when we had new students come in that came from California or someplace else where they, more or less, ran wild...

Student: Hmm....

Jim: We didn't even know what marijuana was until we got about twenty students out of California one year, and then we found out real quick what it was.

Student: Hmm... so they smoked it here?

Jim: They didn't smoke it here if we caught 'em, but it was in the community...

Student: What were some of the punishments back then... because today they just give you a piece of paper that's a citation...

Jim: Oh.... everything from being sent home for a couple of days... that used to really cure the boys when you called their dad up and said so and so has not followed the rules... I'm gonna' have to send him home for a day or two, and the day would say, "Hey, I've got a big manure pile and good wheelbarrow... he'll know all the rules when he comes back!" And that usually took care of it.

Student: Did you ever spank the kids?

Jim: Noooo... I don't think I ever spanked any high school kids here... we used to spank 'em over in Idaho...

Student: My dad... he was, um.... when he was in high school, he said that the teacher had a hook on the ceiling and there was... dangling from the hook was a wooden board on a string with holes in

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it... like a board about... that big...

Jim: (laughing)... Well, I don't...

Student: Everyone once in a while you'd hear a scream out of the classroom 'cause someone was getting whipped...

Jim: I don't know about that... but there used to be an old paddle here... but I think it was just a kind of a...

Student: A scare thing...

Jim: Well, I don't know... I don't even know where it came from... but it was here... it was probably here when I left, too... but I never did use it that I can remember...

Student: Were the sports back then the same they are today... same sports?

Jim: No, we just had... we didn't have any girl's sports...

Student: Hmm....

Jim: ...as such... no, they played in physical education classes and things like that, but they didn't have team sports with other schools until finally we got started with some track, and then we got started volleyball and basketball then came along last, then course, softball just started a few years ago...

Student: Hmm....

Jim: But, when we started the basketball, why, they didn't have anybody to coach 'em, so I coached 'em...

Student: Hmm.... what were the students taught?

Jim: What were they what?

Student: Taught...

Jim: Taught?

Student: Yeah...

Jim: Well, the usual things...

Student: Math, reading...

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Jim: Math, Social Studies, we had... we probably had more shop classes and more home ec and...

Student: What did they make in shop classes?

Jim: Oh, everything from drift boats to gun stocks... yeah... one of the things that's a real good senior shop product... or project... is a gun stock made out of something like walnut or myrtle wood or something like that... takes a lot of skill to build something like that...

Student: Hm... did you have any metal classes?

Jim: We had metal after we moved... well, I think we had a little bit of welding down here in the basement, and then when we moved into the new shop, of course, then we had welding, and then that shop that's out behind the shop, the students built that... we built that with shop classes... actually built the whole building... they built...

Student: Did any students build any guns, with the wood and the metal... just for a project...

Jim: Build guns?

Student: Guns... yeah...

Jim: I don't of anybody ever building a gun, but they built gun stock, you know...

Student: Do you guys sell them?

Jim: No... they'd bring their gun... they'd tell me they'd want to build a gun stock in shop... I'd say fine... so the bus driver knew they were gonna' bring it in... you'd bring it in... I'll take the firing pin out of it... put it in my desk... you take it over and give it to Mr. Malmquist, and he'll lock it up over there, then you take the stock off, and then you build a new stock... takes a quite a while to do it...

Student: How did the teachers communicate with each other at school? Did they just walk to the other classes?

Jim: That's... or, general announcements we made from the office with the PA system... the only phones were in the office and we had a phone down in the old dressing room here for the coaches to use after the ball games to call in the games, but other than that, that was the only phones we had... course then when we built the new buildings, why, we had phones in the shop and in the new gym, so that... and in the kitchen over there... and we didn't start the hot lunch program over there until we had built the building and, oh, four or five years later we got the money together to put in the kitchen equipment and start the hot lunch program.

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Student: So is there anything that the school did for the community?

Jim: Oh, probably not as much as you do today. We didn't go out and do too many projects or anything... we had projects here to do for the school, you know, but not so much for the community... that's something's that come along in the latter years...

Student: Do you have any specific stories about children that you thought were particularly funny or mean?

Jim: Oh, I've got a lot of 'em, but I'd better not tell 'em! (laughing)... No, I would not want to embarrass anybody...

Student: Oh, just tell one...

Jim: No (laughing)... no, I don't think that that would be the right thing to do... but, sure, you always have some funny things that happen... but, you see, if you tell a story like that... the person that it's about... you don't have to name 'em, they know, and that's not too good... so I don't think we'll get into that... (laughing)...

Student: Who were some of the teachers?

Jim: Who were some of the teachers?

Student: Uh, huh (yes)...

Jim: Well, when I first came here, of course, Mr. Pimentel was here... he'd been here about three or four years... Mr. Nelson had been here two years... Mr. Malmquist had been here two years... Mr. Heath had been here two years... Mr. Steubs had been here about four or five... Barry Adams, that ended up being the... winning more games than any basketball coach, remember, in the state... now, I think his record's been broken... but, anyway, he was here... and he was here for five years... Mrs. Frank that was a graduate of Sandlake High School was a commercial teacher, and John Leinhart was here... taught English... let's see... the first group... that's about... I brought a couple of teachers... Mr. Craven from Lincoln City... he came up with me and another fella'... and I can't even remember the other fella's name... he was a guidance director... came up at the same time... Mrs. Yokum was the secretary in the office, and of course, we didn't have any cooks... the custodians were Jack Gilman, who was here all of... for twenty-three years that I was here... he retired one year before I did... and Lee Taylor from way up in the Blaine country was a custodian and also a bus driver... and Mrs. Bailey from out on Three Rivers was a bus driver and... I was looking in an old annual that... Buster Bailey over here was one of the bus drivers and that... and through the years, 'course, a lot of people drove bus for us and things like that...

Student: How many teachers do you think you've gained... I mean, like you started out with a certain number, and now there's more teachers, or less teachers?

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Jim: Oh... probably about the same... I think about fifteen's what it usually runs... I don't know how many they have here now, but I would imagine it's about that...

Student: Hm... has the student population gone up?

Jim: The student population... I think right now, they said, it's about the same in high school, but the grade schools are smaller now than they used to be... see, at that time there were four grade schools...

Student: Yeah...

Jim: Cloverdale, Beaver, Hebo and Sandlake...

Student: The grade school back then was grade one through eight, right?

Jim: Yes.

Student: Now it's only one through five...

Jim: Yeah... and your dad was a seventh grader at Cloverdale when I came here... (chuckling)... his dad was an eighth grader...

Student: Do you know Ron Kellow?

Jim: Oh, I had Ron Kellow for all the years... I had Ron Kellow as... little league baseball, and... I will tell you one funny story about Ron Kellow...

Student: Okay...

Jim: 'Cause he... 'cause I've told this one on him lots of times... I had him in little league baseball, and there was Ron Kellow and Ray Munroe and Blaine, our youngest son, Andy Nelson, Bruce Scherzinger, several more of 'em... I had these... and we played little league down in the league with Lincoln City... and nobody could even touch us as far as... they had three teams and we'd win every game... but anyway, we were coming back from there and Ron lived out on the dairy... you know where his old farm is down there on the old road... well, anyway we were coming back and we turned off there to let him off and in those days you didn't take everybody home, you'd let him walk a ways, see... we let him out and about that time somebody... I don't know if it Blaine or Ray or Keith Redberg... threw Ron's shoes out there in the swamp... so we stopped and waited, and Ron's out there running around in the swamp looking for these shoes... well, over there at the old cheese factory is a state policeman sitting in a car, so pretty soon here comes this state policeman over and he pulls right up beside me and wants to know what's going on, and we're all laughing, including myself, so hard that we couldn't even answer him (laughing)... so he said, "Well, I guess there's nothing

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very serious here,” and he got in his car and left... yeah, it was a pretty good one... ‘course Ron remembers that, too, ‘cause we kid him about it every once in a while when we see him... yeah...

Student: Did you have a question?

Other voice: Did he ever find his shoes?

Jim: Oh, yeah! Yeah, he found ‘em... that particular bunch of kids... they were very good athletes and good students, and they were really full of fun... when they went on a trip, why, they had fun... they really...

Student: How many people did you have on your baseball team?

Jim: In baseball?

Student: Yeah.

Jim: Well, they used to have... I think they did have some JV baseball later, but when we first started we didn’t have but the one varsity team, and you know, there were younger kids playing, and everything, but everybody didn’t always get to play. You know, now I think that...

Student: You had more than nine players on the team...

Jim: Well, yeah... you had... fact is, we never used to cut anybody from the teams, you know...

Student: Hmm....

Jim: If they cut themselves, that was fine, but I always felt that everybody should get to participate... there’s nothing that will prepare you better for life than to participate in any activity where you have to cooperate with other people, you have to be a team, you have to work with team work, you have to develop leadership qualities, you have to develop followership qualities, because we’re not all gonna’ be leaders... but some of us are going to be, and everybody does some leading and some following, so you have to learn all these... and that’s one of the things that... one of the main reasons that we have athletics... another main reason that we’ve always had athletics is that we teach you to, or prepare you for life. The lines up there in the gym, the lines out there on the football field, were put there, you probably think so you can have fun playing the game. That isn’t why we put ‘em there. We put ‘em there so that we can teach you about life... if you step out of bounds, you’re penalized... if you foul, you’re penalized... and in playing these games if you get too far out of line, they give you a technical... you know what happens when you get a technical in life?

Student: You go to jail.

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Jim: You got handcuffs, instead of technicals! (laughing)... Right. You go to jail. That's... and these are things that athletics teaches you... also... and these things are also developed in things like music, drama and things like this. That's why the activities are so important. And that's why as long as I am in the community, I hope I'll never see them charging kids to participate in extra-curricular activities, because that would eliminate some students. And it doesn't... it wouldn't save that much money. Very little.

(Other voice and student discussing questions to ask)...

Student: What were the methods of teaching?

Jim: The methods of teaching? Well, the teachers usually lectured a little bit... homework... some classes required homework, particularly... something like algebra... classes of that type, you know, you might have to have some homework... but other than that, the methods of teaching were... of course, labs in the sciences and in the shops and the home ec, you had labs, you know, and you actually... hands on...

Student: Hmm.... students just wrote with pencils and pens, right?

Jim: Well, we had typewriters (laughing)...

Student: No computers?

Jim: And no computers... no we had, uh... we would change one-third of the typewriters out every year for new ones, and we probably had about thirty typewriters in the typing room, and of course, they had one in the library... we didn't have the...

Student: So when you messed up...

Jim: What?

Student: So when you messed up on the typewriter...

Jim: Well, everybody learned to type, and of course that's why when they went to computers, why...

Student: You could just delete...

Jim: Yeah... that's easier... word processors... I think we got into some word processors before I retired, but I did buy some computers...

Student: How long ago did you retire?

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Jim: Sixteen years ago...

Student: Hmm....

Jim: 1986, I believe it was... yeah... yes...

Student: Were the bathrooms in the building, or were they outside?

Jim: (laughing)... bathrooms have always been in the building, as far as I know... those were your old grade school days out in the country where they had the bathrooms outside (laughing)...

Student: What were the bound... were they really strict about the boundaries about going outside the school area unsupervised?

Jim: Off campus, you mean?

Student: Yeah.

Jim: Well, do you mean at noon, or...

Student: Or, whatever...

Jim: Well, sometimes we'd have closed campus at noon, and sometimes... some years we wouldn't... it depended upon the... if we had a lot of problems with people downtown, or something, or some problems, then we might say, no we're gonna' stay here at noon... we didn't drive off campus at noon that much, unless it was just really necessary, you know...

Student: How many rooms were there in the building?

Jim: Oh, gee, I don't remember. There were I think five downstairs and about six or seven upstairs, and then of course the gym here... which was this whole building through here.... I'll tell you... if you wanna' know another funny student story, though, I'll tell you this one, too. One of our school board members today... Sears... Mike Sears is on the school board... was a sophomore, I think, that year, and he was playing JV basketball, and it was at the end of the game... and the center circle was just about in there somewhere, and he fell flat on his back, and he had the ball... and he threw it like that and it went through the basket up at this end and caused the game to go into an overtime (laughing)... and won the ball game... it was JV basketball game...

Other student: He was laying there and he just threw it?

Jim: He was laying on his back and he just went like that and threw it and it just went swish!

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Other voice: They scored that?

Jim: What?

Other voice: He scored that?

Jim: Yeah, they scored it. As long as you don't travel, that's it. But, uh...

Student: You guys have any questions?

Jim: You know, the stage was over there, and the players sat up on the stage, see... and the bleachers were over here in this part, you know, where the people sat, and it would be crowded at every game... we had good teams... we always used to have good teams... basketball teams... and the place would be crowded... we had another kind of funny thing that I can tell you about that, uh... one time we were having a game here with Willamina, and one of our players lost his shoe, and the Willamina coach picked it up and ran over and threw it down in the old dressing room (laughing)... and the kid was running around with only one shoe on for a little bit here, you know, in the game, and finally got stopped and somebody went down and got his shoe for him... well, the minute the game's over... I was up here, sitting up here kinda' watching things, and here comes this kids' dad down out of the stands headed for the coach... for the Willamina coach, and I got out there and got him stopped and cooled him down (laughing)...

Student: Was he gonna' attack him?

Jim: Well, he was gonna' have some words with him or something, yeah, that's for sure! (laughing)...

Other student: When did this school start? Like what year did this high school become...

Jim: Well, that... I kinda' think... it was in the '30's... out on that... the thing with the old school board members... the original school board members, why it has the date, I think, when they started... and that first year Mrs. Baertlein, who is still alive, was the home ec teacher here... at...

Student: What does home ec do?

Jim: What? Home Ec? That's where they learn to cook and sew.

Student: Oooooh....

Jim: My goodness... that's a... (laughing)... you can't learn to cook and sew on the computer any more, I guess...

Student: Ooooh, they got so many sites on the internet...

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Jim: Oh, I s'pose... yeah...

Student: Hmmm....

Other student: Like, what was your favorite thing to do out of the year with the whole school... was there anything that you would take the whole school out and do... like have a picnic or something at the end of the year....

Jim: Yeah, they used to have... yeah... they used to have picnics at the end of the year, and then we eliminated them... you have a problem and then you eliminate the problem by eliminating the thing... but another fun thing that they always did in track was when Dayton would come over and they'd have a track meet with Dayton and then they'd all go down to the beach and have a picnic with Dayton afterwards... and we always had very good relations with Dayton... they just... we always got along fine with them... Willamina seemed to be the one that we had some problems with now and then...

Students: Took the kids shoe... There are problems with Willamina?

Jim: They're still having problems with 'em... well, we've had some pretty rough ones through the years... but it all depends on who was at Willamina... they had some people that controlled the situation and then they had some that let their people go crazy, you know, and that's when you have problems.

Student: Were the students mostly big or smaller than they are now back then?

Jim: I think they were bigger...

Student: Really?

Jim: I really do... the year that our oldest son graduated, there were twenty-four boys in the graduating class, and twelve were six foot two or over...

Student: Whooooo...

Jim: Twelve of the the twenty-four boys...

Student: So fifty percent of the kids were over six foot two...

Jim: Well, now, this is just the boys (laughing)....

Student: Yeah, I know... girls are usually shorter...

Jim: Yeah... yeah... but that was Tom Williams and kids like that were in that class... yeah...

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our oldest son was in that class... you're about out of questions?

Student: Yep...

Other student: Did you have any family here before you moved here?

Jim: Did I have any family here? No... we lived down at Lincoln City, at Wecoma Beach down there, and we have four children, and so then we just, uh... the first year I told you I had to drive back and forth because we couldn't find a house up here... and so then when we moved up here, no, we didn't have any other family up in this area, but all of our children went through the high school here... and the youngest one... the one that's this young man's father's age... they were classmates... went all through... he went to Hebo for two or three years and then to Beaver for a couple years... we lived up in that area and then came back to Hebo for the last three years...

Student: He's forty-five, right?

Jim: How old's your dad?

Student: Forty-five, forty-six...

Jim: Well, that... he's probably the same, then... (chuckling)...

Student: What was his name?

Jim: Blaine. _____

Student: Hm.... We had heard so many stories about Goose and Ron and all kinds of stories about them...

Jim: Oh, I'm sure... yeah...

Student: A lot of funny ones...

Jim: Yeah...

Other student: Well, like, did you have a favorite teacher that was fun for you to tease or play tricks on?

Jim: Did I have a favorite teacher? Well, I...

Other student: To play tricks on?

Jim: Yes... I used to like to pull jokes on Mr. Tiffin, the basketball coach.

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Student: Why?

Jim: Oh, he was just a fun guy. He'd pull 'em on me! And it isn't any fun to pull a joke on somebody unless they'll pull one on you. But I... I'll tell you one about him... he gets kidded about this one a lot, too... I don't know whether... he was the basketball coach here, and his son graduated here and teaches over in the Salem school district... but anyway, his first year over here, we played McClaren School for Boys... that's a reform school... and they were coming over for a football game... so I got a bright idea and he'd... I knew this Mr. Tiffin was kind of a joker, so I called him in to the office in the morning and I said, "Now, McClaren School for Boys is coming over and they want to bring a spectator bus and the basketball coach from McClaren is going to be a chaperone on this spectator bus, and he'd like to have you meet him in the parking lot and help him get these kids from McClaren up to the grandstand." So all day he'd come in between classes... "Well, why me... why me... why me?" Because you're the basketball coach and all you basketball coaches have to get together, you know... so that night when the McClaren football team got here... the coach was a gentleman by the name of Tommy Lee... an Indian boy... and I went out and talked to him and I said, "Now, I'm gonna' send the basketball coach out to ask you when the bus is comin', and you tell him just before the game," see, so (chuckling)... he did he went out and Tommy Lee told him well, it'll be here so Mr. Tiffin went down into the parking lot and he was waiting down there... when the game started he was still waiting for the bus... and Mr. Malmquist... I'd put him in on the joke... by that time we were standing in the grandstand laughing at him down there (laughing)... after a few minutes he caught on there wasn't gonna' be any spectator bus from the reform school... (laughing)...

Other student: Um, like, three... what are three main accomplishments that you did or three things that you liked that you did while you were principal here at Nestucca?

Jim: Well...

Student: Achievements...

Jim: Well, probably the most... best achievement, of course, was to build the buildings out here, you know... the new gym, the grandstand, the shops, the tennis courts out there, the parking lot, the track up here with the stuff on it... all of those things were accomplishments...

Student: What year did you put the pavement in on the parking lot?

Jim: Oh, that's a good question... I don't know... I can... I... wait a minute now... Todd Heath was a sophomore that year, and I had him working out there, and we had to put the pipe down in the trenches, you know, and he and Mr. Malmquist and another student that I don't remember his name were out there and they put all this drain tile in, you know, and then they covered it all up... but I... it would have had to have been... oh, it would have had to have been seventy... hmm... boy, I just really... wouldn't say what year it was exactly...

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Student: So it was in the seventies?

Jim: It was in the seventies, yeah.

Other student: But, um, like... what were three good memories of yours, or three things that really stick out in your memory that happened to you?

Jim: Well, I think that... that was one of 'em, of course...

Student: Probably the stories...

Jim: ... and the fact that we increased it so we had more shop classes and things like that, and starting the girls athletic programs, you know... Title Nine, which was a federal law, came in and we started these girls programs and I wished they'd a started long before they did, because we had a lot of outstanding girl athletes here before we ever started the program. Yeah. They... some of our girl athletes were really outstanding. But... and that was good... but mainly that was it, you know... and we always tried to have good busses and everything...

Student: How many principals were here before you were principal?

Jim: I wouldn't have any idea... the fella' that was here before me was here for three years, and I suppose there were several of 'em...

Student: How long were you the principal?

Jim: Twenty-four years.

Student: So you were principal, and the Hurlimans were in your classes twenty-four year...

Jim: (laughing)... Twenty-four years... yeah...

Student: That's amazing.

Jim: There's a lot of Hurlimans...

Student: Huh... okay... if you were to say one thing that you liked most about your career of teaching, what would it be?

Jim: The cooperation of the community. We used to have to vote on a levy to operate the school, and never, ever did we ever lose an election to raise money to run the school. We never lost an issue. We lost a bond issue one time, years and years ago, and then we turned right around and made it for a larger amount of money and that's when we remodeled all this and built the new buildings. But the first one was turned down because the people in the

Interview with Jim Brown

Conducted by NVMS Students

April 30, 2002

The individual students and classroom is unknown.

Transcribed by Darleen CREECY Cole in 2005

community said we weren't doing enough... we needed more shops and things like that, so make it larger and then we'll pass it, and they did. I think that the backing of the community is the major thing... people are excellent.

Student: Well, thank you.

Jim: Well, you're welcome.

(end of tape)

**Transcribed by
Darleen Cole
March 22, 2005**