

# Interview with Naomi Larrew Schrock

April 29, 2002

**Student:** *Well, before we start the tape, um...*

**Student:** *It's going*

**Student:** *Oh, really? Ok, well... we need you to tell your name, the date and the school you attended.*

**NS:** *Ok... tell me when... now?*

**Student:** *Sure.*

**NS:** *Ok... I was born Naomi Katherine Larrew, and I married a Schrock in 1947, and, um... we lived up the river on the homestead, and when I got married there wasn't any church near, up there, and so we were married in the Blaine School house... (laughing)... in 1947... so that's kind of a... different thing... and, uh... then I went to good ol' Silver Falls School.*

**Student:** *Oh... so, um.. can you tell us, or describe, if you can, the exact location of the school?*

**NS:** *Yes... if you go up above Blaine and keep going, there's a thirteen mile marker up there, and it's just a little ways around a curve, and it was just a very small lot... you can't imagine... I can't imagine now, how we ever played ball, or any of that, because there wasn't that big a piece of land. And we played baseball, it'd go in the river.. the river ran in the front of our ... our school house, and boom! And there goes the ball, out in the river.. sometimes the teacher'd let the boys go get it... I think sometimes it went down the river... but, it had a creek on one side... a small creek.*

*And in the spring, why, uh... my mother used to say when the dandelions bloom, you can go barefooted... so, us kids, we'd go out barefooted and we'd walk in the creek and play... and then, uh... the road was... when... uh... at the upper end, and when I started to school, there was a shed on one side of the school yard, and it was called... um... um... horse...um... horse shed, because some... some of the children... that... there wasn't... wasn't any bus back then, and... when I started school. And, uh.. so some of the kids had to ride horses to school, and they'd tether 'em up in this ... this horse shed.*

**Student:** *And what year did you start to school?*

**NS:** *Oh, I started... let's see... (calculating)... I think, '31.. I think it was... I think I had it written down here, but... ummm....*

**Voice:** *So, you were five.*

**NS:** *Ya, I was five, because my birthday is November the 16th, so I got to start when I was five... and, uh... I had about a quarter of a mile to walk, so we weren't very far... we were really lucky, 'cause some of the kids had to walk quite a long ways. Eventually, they did get a bus... just... it was just a car, really, you know, or... and they would haul the kids in to... anyway, I guess we were kinda' isolated, but we didn't know any difference. (laughing)*

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So, anyway, then there was... uh... there was a big tall pole with our flag on it... I mean, it was way up there, and, uh... once in a while the kids would get to raise the flag, and other times the teacher did... and for playing, we had a merry go round like thing that you could get on and go 'round and 'round... and try to knock the other guy off... and (laughing)... so, we ... we had that... but we played marbles... get down in the dirt, I guess, and... and play marbles, and that was a lot of fun. And, uh... when I went home, and my daddy would come home from work in the... in the end of the week, why, I can still see him down on his knees playing marbles with us... he had as much fun as we did, so I was thankful I had a daddy like that. (laugh) And, let's see, we played, um... oh... Auntie Over... you know what that is... and, um.... um... what was the other one? I had it written down here... um...

**Voice:** *Let them ask you questions.*

**NS:** Huh?

**Voice:** *Let them ask you questions.*

**NS:** Ok... you ask me questions.

**Student:** *Ok... um... if you have any idea when the school started and/or closed, could you tell us?*

**NS:** Uh... I'm not sure when it started, but my two older brothers went to it, and so I know they... it had to have started quite a ways back... 'cause that was about the time, I guess, there were a lot of people that were taking homesteads, and they had to... you know... make a... build a school.

**Voice:** ???

**NS:** Ya, it probably was. Ya... yes, I imagine because I would go down, uh.... to the main road when I thought it was time for my brothers to come home, and I was probably four or five then, so... (calculating)... probably... so it was probably about 1925 or so... '24 or '25 when it was made.

**Voice:** *When did it close?*

**NS:** It closed when I was a seventh grader.. there wasn't enough kids anymore to keep the school open, so they closed and consolidated with Blaine... and there was only me, and... uh... one, sometimes two boys, that went to Blaine to school, so it wasn't very prosperous to have a bus... so my dad, part of the time, took me to school, and I had graduated... then I was in the eighth grade then, and I graduated at Beaver... I... I mean, at Blaine, and then, course, they had a bus to take us to high school at Nestucca, too... and, umm... our eighth grade class that graduated at Blaine... there was three of us, I think... they sent us down to the Nestucca High School, 'cause they were trying something.... see, there was, um.... little school houses all over this county, like up Boulder Creek, up... up in... and... lots of places, and so, we all consolidated together... Cloverdale even went with us, and Blaine and Beaver, Hebo... and we

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all graduated together at the high school... I can still remember marching across the old part for graduation... that was a first.

**Student:** Please describe the school building in as much detail as you can, telling us about the outside and the inside of the building.

**NS:** Ok... it was a typical, kind of a long building, and, uh.... the front porch... uh... we had to go up, um... I think I wrote that down, so I could get it right... um... we had to go up several steps, and there was a small porch there, and then we went in the big door... and, then to the right was the girls' cloak room, they called 'em... that's where the girls hung their coats and put their lunch pails, and on the left to go in, that was the boys.... and, uh.. then the rest was all classroom... and, um... it was just... huh... I guess, a square room, just... like, you know.... wasn't overly big... but as I remember, the little kids sat on the right side of the building, and the bigger... the older ones sat over here on the left... and the teacher, she's up in front, and she had a bell she rang when she wanted our attention or wanted us to come in, she'd ring that bell.. and, uh.. let's see, what did she have in her drawer? I think she had... (laughing)... I think she had a yard stick or a... some kind of a something like that, and I think when somebody did something real bad, she whomped 'em... (laughing)... I think somebody hid a... oh, what was that... in her desk one time.... wasn't a mouse, but it was something, and boy! she come unglued. (more laughing) And, I wanna' tell you about our water supply... oh, you got another question...

**Student:** *Uh... well, you can tell us about the water, if you want to.*

**NS:** Well, up front, to the left there was a bucket of water, always, and it had... I don't know... you're pretty young, but it had a long handled dipper... the dipper was about that big, and it had a long handle out here... and we would dip in... we all drank out of that bucket... out of that dipper... and it was cold, of course, and we didn't have any warm water to, you know.. when it got cold in the winter to wash our hands... but we had in the right hand... up front... we had a stove... was about this long, and this high, and it had a top on it that we could warm ourselves or put some soup on it, I guess, if we had it and warmed up... and the bottom had a... um... some kind of things where you could put your socks on or your mittens on to get 'em dried, you know.... and, so if we got too cold, we all sat up around there and studied, too. But as time went on, they... they got that water out of that little creek, I'm sure that's where it came from.. but, back then there wasn't a lot of pollution, either. But as time went on, they hooked up to a spring and ran pipes down there, and we had running water... but not hot water... we never did have a heater in there... and, oh... the front of the room, and then back behind that was the wood shed.. where they piled the wood... sometimes we got to even go get the wood for the stove.

**Student:** *Did it snow up there a lot?*

**NS:** We had more snow as I was growing up, I think, than what we have now, for some reason... oh, it always snowed at least couple times a year... and that's what I liked... on this side of the building was all windows, and you could sit there and look out and it would start... our place was out that way, and there was a mountain behind it, and when it would start to

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snow you could see it just move this way toward us, and pretty soon it'd be snowing. You want to hear about ice skating?

**Student:** *Sure.*

**NS:** The one side of the school house was kind of on an incline... not a big one, but we decided.. it got cold one year, and so we decided we was gonna' carry buckets and buckets of water and pour on that slope and the next we came to school, we had ice, and we scooted on our shoes on the ice, I guess, and board... and it did... it... it... it froze over and we had a high old time. (laughing)

**Student:** *Um.. what did you have for bathrooms?*

**NS:** Oh, boy... you wouldn't want to know. (laughing) Down towards the river... there was a little outhouse here.. this was the girls... there was an outhouse here... this was the boys... and boy, when it was cold in the wintertime, you sure hoped you didn't have to go down to those outhouses. (laughing) Whooo... but the strangest thing... shall I tell 'em what the strangest thing... (laughing) ... there were always two holers, but the school board.. I remember my mom telling that.. she was a clerk for the school board, and my dad was usually on the board... anytime... and anyway, one time during the Depression, why, they were trying to cut costs, so they said, well, what can we do to cut costs? And this one older lady said, "Well, they can use catalogs instead of toilet paper and that will save a lot of money." Slick old catalog.. that part isn't good (laughing)... but that's the truth. Anybody else want to ask...?

**Student:** *Are there any, um.. stories that stick out from your childhood that you remember?*

**NS:** Umm... yes, and I was really little... I must have been in the first grade... and, uh... it was a warm day, and I remember the older kids wanted to take me down to the river... have me go swimmin' ... I guess it was wading, really... so, sure, I'll go... so I went down there and waded and to come back up, and I was all wet from head to toe and... I remember that as plain as day... and I remember, too... I don't know if I should tell you this one... but, boys.. you know what they like to do is go out and hunt snakes sometimes... those little snakes... and I never forgave that boy.. I don't think... I don't even remember who he was.. but anyway... he came in, we all sat down, he was sitting behind me and pretty soon I felt crawly, crawly... OOOHHH! I turned around, he was holding that snake up around my neck and I screamed! (laughing) So....

**Student:** *Um.. how much numbers of classrooms were in your school?*

**NS:** Just the one big one, and if they needed privacy, they went to the cloak room, you know, if there was... but just one big room.

**Voice:** *You didn't necessarily have one through eight.. it just depended on what students were there, like maybe...*

**NS:** Ya... uh, huh (yes). It was one to eight was what allowed there... uh, huh...

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**Voice:** *You didn't have a child in every class every year?*

**NS:** No, no.. but uh, Mr. Bones, he... he had read this thing that I had written and he said, well, what do you think is advantage of a one room school over a school like Beaver's? And I said, well, there probably are some advantages...um... I know that to learn to read... they had phonics, you know, and they had, uh... whatever you call those up there... ya, like that... and uh... well, we could all hear 'em, you know, whether it was eighth graders, seventh... whatever, because it was right there in the room, and so she would drill those and drill those.. well, we couldn't help, but even though we'd learn to read, we couldn't help but know what they were, all through our lives, and so I think that was a advantage... and, um... let's see... what was the other? Um...

**Voice:** *Did you do a lot of oral reading, too?*

**NS:** Oh, yes... we read out loud, and... and, sure... ya..

**Voice:** *That was probably an advantage to the younger one, too.*

**NS:** But one thing that sticks out in my mind, was, um... learning to write.. I imagine your parents or grandparents have told you about that... ya... it was uh... Scribbs or something.. it was a special name that they said.. and you'd have to hold your hand like this and dip your pen into the ink bottle and then you'd go... and you had to make ... ooops! I didn't see that. And then you'd go up and down and up and down, and it was really taught so you better learn to write good, and I had a mother that... she really thought that people should write nice, and she did.. she died at 101, and through her lifetime she wrote hundreds and hundreds of letters to people, but it had to be written just nice. So I remember that. And... let's see...

**Student:** *I have a question.. what was your favorite game to play?*

**NS:** Favorite game to play? Well, I wasn't very good at baseball... I think I threw the bat.. I'm not sure, but.. I wasn't very good.. but we also, um... pole jumped... they'd go out and get some poles about that big, and they'd fit 'em in, you know, so they could be raised up so it wouldn't ... oh, we'd pole vault over that and land on the ground... nobody ever broke an arm, though. (laughing) And then, the one that really was.. we'd... they'd get old tires.. car tires... and they'd roll it down this hill where we had the ice, you know, at one time.. and you were to jump over it.. can you imagine us girls jumpin' over it with our dresses? (laughing).... Anyway, I had a boil on my leg, here.... a big ol' fat boil, and I went and jumped over that.... and it just shaved that ol' boil off of my leg (laughing)... but I guess I liked... um... I liked marbles, and I liked, um... playing Auntie Over, and those kinda' things, just like all kids liked.

**Student:** *Was there a bell at your school?*

**NS:** Was there what?

**Student:** *A bell at your school?*

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**NS:** Uh, huh... uh, huh (yes, yes).. ya, I don't know where it went when they tore the building down... I often wondered... it'd been fun to have it.

**Student:** Ya.

**NS:** So... ya, they did... uh, huh (yes).

**Student:** *Uh... please tell us where the... where to... all right... please tell us where to where the students lived...*

**NS:** Where the students lived?

**Student:** Ya...

**NS:** Well, they lived all the way up the Nestucca River... I know there was, um... one family lived really far up there, and there was quite a few families that lived right along the river, and, uh... so at one time we had quite a few students... but then, uh... the government started buying out houses of... of these small homesteaders and transplanting them over in the valley... huh?

**Voice:** *I know Fitches lived up the Niagra... and at that time, they had to cross the river on a swinging bridge, didn't they?*

**NS:** Well, yes, if they walked, but they came on the horses usually, then, the... so they didn't... but, uh... ya...

**Student:** *Do you know about how far away the ... farthest person lived away from school?*

**NS:** The farthest one?

**Student:** *Do you know who it was?*

**NS:** Um... the Richardsons lived way up the river past Alder Glen.. quite a ways up there, and the Scheeses did, too.

**Voice:** At least five miles... at least miles...

**NS:** Oh, ya... and, uh... on side roads there was homes and everything, and... everybody was friendly... all in the same boat... didn't have much money (laughing)... no, there was Depression along about that time, and it was ... it was hard.

**Voice:** The people that lived up above the falls...

**NS:** Oh, Collins... this side...

**Voice:** .... they had to walk....

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**NS:** Um... Duvalls... Duvalls... um, huh (yes)...

**Voice:** ... them kids all had to walk out on the trail....

**NS:** Forest Service trail...um, huh (yes)... they couldn't drive a car back up there, they had to pack everything in on their backs, and... it was a hard time for some of 'em...

**Voice:** Them kids... they... they walked on the trail for at least two miles...

**NS:** Anyway... um, huh (yes)...

**Voice:** ... on the trail by themselves...

**Student:** *So, um.. what would have been the way most kids got to school?*

**NS:** How many kids?

**Student:** *Um... what was the way... how did they get to school?*

**NS:** Walked, mostly... um, huh (yes)... then, like I say, in later years there was a car that acted as a bus, you know, for the ones far away... some of 'em rode bicycles, and uh...

And we had a lot of fun after school, because we could go down to the river and it was kinda'... kinda' shallow and there weren't lots of rocks, and when the salmon would run, they'd just come floppin' their tails up through that... those riffles, and, uh... there was lots of 'em... and we were naughty, I know we were... my momma said we were.... but, we'd throw rocks at 'em to make 'em go faster, you know... well, it was all right if you didn't really hit 'em, why, I guess it'd be all right, but boy, they'd just swish their tails and they'd just fly up there!

So I went home and I told momma, well, I'm a little bit late... why, what were you doing? Throwing rocks at the salmon. Well, don't you know that hurts the salmon? Anyway... that was the end of me throwing rocks at salmon. But they were fun to watch. But the worst thing was that.. there was so many salmon went up the river, and then they die after they spawn their eggs, you know, they just... just die and float down the river... whatever... well, we had some high water, uh, lot a times up there, and so these fish would land up in the brush and the trees along the river...

Oh! I hated that.. to go to school, 'cause between our house and the school house you'd hold your nose... those salmon stunk like you wouldn't believe (laughing)... it wasn't nice... ya'... well.... do you think you would have liked to gone to a one room school?

**Student:** *Uh... maybe...*

**NS:** We also had... every week we a songbook and we sang out of it, and everybody had their special song, you know... so, we had fun...

**Voice:** *What was yours?*

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**NS:** What was mine? I... um... can't think, uh.. what it was... America the Beautiful, I guess... I don't know.

**Student:** *Did you have to say the Pledge of Allegiance every day?*

**NS:** Have to do what?

**Student:** *Did you say the Pledge of Allegiance every day?*

**NS:** Pledge of... yes, I was gonna' say that... tell you that.. uh, huh (yes)... and we sang America, too, a lot... and, uh... um... we had, uh... 4H classes... I belonged to a 4H club... sewing club... and, uh... that was fun... (laugh)

**Student:** *Did you put on, like, Christmas programs?*

**NS:** Yes, we always had Christmas, and uh.. we always had a Christmas tree, and we always exchanged names.. and nobody had lots of money, you know, so you didn't spend big amounts of money for it, but we had a lot of fun... we'd sing Christmas carols and... I remember when I first started school... I think I was... well, it might have been when I was in the second grade... we had a young teacher, and you could get away with anything with her... (laugh)... and, so, she had a... a play... she had us have a play.. and I remember that ... they stretched wires across in front and hung curtains or sheets or whatever so they could flip back and forth... but it was fun... I ... I could remember then better than I can now and it was lots of fun... and then, let's see... oh, she was the teacher ... she was my second grade teacher... and she didn't make the kids study very much... I don't remember anything about studying that.. oh, yes, I do too... I had color crayons, finally, then, you know, and I colored the cow purple... that was dumb (laughing)... and I can remember to this day what color I made that cow... but, anyway, she was... she was young at heart and nice, but she'd let us go out and play and we'd play Beckon, Beckon... you know what that is?

**Student:** *No...*

**NS:** Well, see there was hills all around us, you know, and there was no reason we couldn't run around there, so they would... well, it was kinda' like hide and seek... and, uh... then, there'd be a... a... one that had to stay at the base, and then we all ran all over those hills... can you imagine doing that today? And, uh.. then, uh... you would wave at the Beckon, Beckon... and, uh... you'd wave... huh? Huh?

**Voice:** If you got caught, and if they seen you and you had to go in and they had a round circle you stood in, and uh... then you.. some of the other kids were hiding, and you could see 'em, they'd wave and give you a Beckon, then you'd run... when the one who was it wasn't watching, why, then you could sneak off and go hide again.. and, uh...

**NS:** Oh, we had a ball... but we didn't study much. Her name was Miss French, and she was a friend... like I say, a real friendly woman, and young, but the others were all older than that. I had, uh... I can tell you the names of all my teachers... Mrs. Taylor was my first grade teacher,



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Miss French was my second, um.. Mrs. Steinbach was from Tillamook, and she was my third and fourth... I don't think she was the fifth.. and the fifth was.. oh, she brought her.. she brought her boys with her... they lived in Tillamook, and ... and one was in my class, and one was older, and uh... finally the school district built her a little house.. a little cabin down at the end, so she wouldn't have to drive back and forth to Tillamook... 'cause there was just gravel roads then, you know... so, and then I had Miss Smith for two more years, I think... I'm getting up there, and then I went eighth grade was.. very... at Bra... at Blaine... so ... they were good teachers. Miss Smith, she was pretty... pretty old, and she boarded at the next door neighbor's, so... that...

**Voice:** Now, Mrs. Smith would have been a local...

**NS:** Miss Smith...

**Voice:** Miss Smith would have been a local teacher.. she grew up...

**NS:** Uh, huh (yes)... she grew up in Blaine... uh, huh... ya...

**Student:** *Did they have a paddle?*

**NS:** Had a what?

**Student:** *A paddle?*

**NS:** Like... (slap, slap, slap)... (laughing)...

**Student:** *(laughing)... ya...*

**NS:** Well, you know, I can't remember the teachers really being cruel or anything... I ... I think they did spank the fingers sometimes, and I'm sure they scolded us if we did wrong, but they weren't cruel... no, they weren't cruel.

**Student:** *Were there a bunch of boys in your class, or was it mostly...*

**NS:** I didn't have very many in my class.. I.. ya, I had, um... one, two, and... I probably had about four part of the time in the class...

**Voice:** In the school...

**NS:** In the school, or... oh, in the... in my class.. I never did have very many in my class, so... (laugh)...

**Student:** *About how many students were at your school?*

**NS:** That depended on the year... it got so there probably was... would only been a half a dozen when they closed the school, but... high point, they might have had eighteen or so... uh, huh (yes)... so...

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**Voice:** You wanna' count the dogs, too? (laughing)

**Student:** *Uh, yes... what time did school start and end each day?*

**NS:** Oh! It started at nine o'clock in the morning, and it always left out at three thirty in the afternoon, and, uh.... that's easier than yours, isn't it... maybe? (laugh)... ya, it was, um... ya, it was cold to walk to school, too, and like, some of 'em came from a long ways...

**Student:** *When did you wake up each morning?*

**NS:** When did I wake up? No quicker than I had to, probably (laughing). Oh, I imagine, to walk there... I probably left home about, uh... quarter after eight or so... maybe even eight thirty, 'cause I could get there by nine o'clock, you know, it was that close... so I was probably up by eight... what time do you get up?

**Student:** *I get up at six o'clock...*

**NS:** Ya... you gotta' ride the bus, though.

**Student:** *Did you have any chores, when you were a kid, that you had to do in the morning?*

**NS:** Any chores? Before we went to school? Uh... when I was a little older, why, we had, uh... some chickens... I had batty chickens and I raised some chickens, and I had that to do, and get ready for school, I guess. We didn't have any cows to milk or anything...

**Student:** *What days off did you have during the school year.. like Christmas?*

**NS:** What kinda'....

**Voice:** *Days off...*

**NS:** Oh, days off at Christmas? I think a week, I think...

**Voice:** *....???.... Did you have a break in the springtime?*

**NS:** No...

**Voice:** *But you got out like...*

**NS:** We got always out in May.. the first part of May... no... they....

**Voice:** *What was the length of your school year, Naomi?*

**NS:** Nine months, they always said...

**Voice:** *So, from September to May?*

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**NS:** Uh, huh.... uh, huh (yes, yes)... uh, huh (yes) It was a long time... we couldn't wait for the spring to come.. and have Easter.. we'd have big Easter egg hunts.. and we had lots of fun... some of us didn't like the yolks of the egg, so we'd trade and eat the whites of the eggs.

**Voice:** Valentine's Day was always...

**NS:** Oh, yes... Valentine's Day was always a big time, too, so... we weren't left out on that...

**Voice:** *Did you make... make your own Valentines to give to each other?*

**NS:** Pretty much... uh, huh (yes)... pretty much... oh, ya, if you got a fancy valentine, that was something... ya, they were fun.

**Voice:** *What about May Day... did you do anything special on that day?*

**NS:** I don't... I don't think that we did much then... 'cause after I was married and we had neighbors and... and, uh... that was Lyle Woodses and their kids... uh... would always come down with a basket of flowers for us... that's the first thing I ... ever knew anybody celebrated it... so...

**Student:** *Please tell us about a typical school day, from the moment you left home to go to school to the moment you arrived home.*

**NS:** Um.. ok... I didn't dare be late... so I was there on time... ten 'til nine, maybe.. and... we went in the cloak room, took off our wet cloaks if it had rained, and... and then we went up by the stove if was ... if it was cold, and I think maybe we had reading first.. that we were called to read, and, uh... then... I don't know... how the order... we had spelling and reading and writing and 'arithmetic... um... I know, in the older classes, which is very strange now, you had agriculture books to study, too... there was agriculture books.. that was seventh or eighth grade... I don't know if we learned much... the poor teachers, they didn't know too much about it... (laughing)... but then we'd have, um... oh, our teacher, she'd.. some of them... they'd read a story... they'd start a book, and they'd read a chapter or whatever each day for us... I think that was when we came in from lunch, though... I mean, from noontime... and. let's see.. huh... I don't know...

**Student:** *Were there any extracurricular activities?*

**NS:** Well, the 4H club... um... I don't know as there was, really.

**Voice:** *You didn't have organized sports teams that you know of?*

**NS:** No, no... there wasn't enough for that.. no...

**Student:** *Did any of the students live close enough to the school to go home for lunch?*

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NS: There would have been, uh, huh.. (yes)... the one house to the right of the school, they could have, ya.. but nobody ever did. I suppose I could have if I'd a run all the way. It was fun to go and have lunch at school, even if it was peanut butter sandwiches...

I will tell you a little story about lunches... my mother was always a wonderful bread baker, and in those days, you didn't get to town to buy bread, you baked bread. So, anyway, there was one boy, and, uh... he'd come to school... his mother baked bread, too... and I guess you don't what mince meat is ... but he... I used to like it... it's minced meat and it's got fruit in it, and all of that... so, she would put mince meat on his bread.. his sandwich, and I probably had peanut butter or maybe some meat or something on mine, and uh... so one day I said, "I'll trade you"... I wanted that mince meat sandwich... so he said, "OK"... OHHHH... that bread was so tough and hard, I couldn't hardly eat it, so I never traded any more! (laughing) She did the best she could... she was a hard working woman.. lived way back in the hills, so... one time, though, we walked... maybe that's extracurricular... we walked, uh.. from school.. took a hike.. we went down the road about two miles and then there was a road that turned up... I always get this wrong.. Clarence Creek or Niagara Creek... but it's to the right... and there used to be a CCC camp there.. Civilian... uh, huh (yes)... and, uh... after they... they all left, why, they tore the buildings down... but anyway, we walked up that road.. it was a gravel road... went way back up where there was a lookout... it was a long way, and our teacher, she wasn't too young, but she walked. We was huffin' and puffin', but it was fun.. took us hours to get up there and back, so...

**Student:** *Did they have the Tillamook Fair?*

NS: Tillamook Fair? Uhhh... I.. I don't know what year it started, but there was a Tillamook Fair when I was young... but, I never went... I never went to it... we didn't get to Tillamook very often... that was a long ways...

**Student:** *Um... was everybody taught together in one group, or were there smaller groups of instruction?*

NS: They were kinda' taught by their class, and group.. would go up to the teacher... whatever...

**Student:** *Did the teacher mostly lecture, or did they study books?*

NS: Ya, I'm sure she did.. I'm sure she sat there and, you know, teachers always has eyes in the back in the back of their heads, too, you know... and... (laughing)... I'm sure they knew what was going on... uh, huh (yes).

**Student:** *Did you take field trips, like a long stuff...*

NS: Well, not like you do today. But we sometimes... oh.. a little ways up the road, there was a swinging bridge across this canyon, and uh... there was a... the person on this side the river... he was a buyer for Meier and Frank in Portland, so they had money and they come out, you know, on the weekends... nice people... and, I don't really know who built the swinging bridge, but it might have been the old miner... he thought he was a miner... it's kind of a long

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story.. but he'd been out at Sheridan... or lived at Sheridan or Willamina... and he came out here along the Nestucca River, in through there, and he took a rock back home... he didn't really.. he wasn't a miner at that time, but he took a rock home and put it up on the... above the fireplace... and somebody came by one day, and they said... do you know what you've got there? And he said, I don't know... just a pretty rock... and... now I can't think of the name...

**Voice:** Cinnabar...

**NS:** Cinnabar! And he said, You got cinnabar rock, and that's valuable. So I don't know how old he was when he came back out, but he came out, and it was across that bridge and up in a canyon, 'cause one time the teacher did take us up there to see where he mined, and, uh... one time he came down to school at Christmas.. and now he's old.. his name was Mr. Thacker... he... he was really old... but he decided to repeat "'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and all through the house"... here's this old, old man.. his voice was creaking, and he said that whole thing... we never forgot that... but he never find... found his cinnabar.. he finally, uh... was found dead up there... but I was scared to death to go across that swinging bridge.. it was about this wide, and way down below and.. I went a couple times, but it wasn't fun... (laughing)... unless you want to be a parachuter, or something...

**Student:** *Is it still there?*

**NS:** Yes, it's still there.. it's private property...

**Voice:** It isn't there...

**NS:** Oh, isn't it yet?

**Voice:** No..

**NS:** Oh, I didn't know that... I haven't been down ... Oh, I haven't been up there since... since I went to school, I guess.

**Student:** *Was there much homework?*

**NS:** In arithmetic it was... I had to drill and drill and drill, and one summer I think I had to drill some more on my multiplication tables... I had a terrible time with them... ya... but I loved reading, and after I learned to read, I... I would read dozens of books, 'cause I loved that.

**Student:** *What was your favorite subject?*

**NS:** What was my favorite subject? Probably reading and writing... and.... reading and writing.... um... what else did they have?

**Voice:** English... they had English...

**NS:** Well, I liked the literature part of the English, but I didn't like to learn all the pronouns and nouns and adverbs and adjectives and all of those things.... oh, dear...

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**Student:** *Did you have history?*

**NS:** Have the what?

**Student:** *Did you have history?*

**Voice:** History... ya...

**NS:** Ya, we did... uh, huh (yes)... part of that was interesting, but.... you had to remember.... in those days, they asked you to remember the dates of the years, and now I understand in school now you don't have to remember those so much... is that true?

**Student:** *Ya...*

**Voice:** You... you are taught more now to know how to look it up, like in the library, aren't you?

**Student:** *Ya...*

**NS:** Uh, huh (yes)... and we had to...

**Voice:** We had to memorize ...

**NS:** I knew when... what 1492 was... (laughing)... Columbus discovered the ocean blue

**Voice:** There was no science... no science...

**NS:** Not... no, not... when we... I don't think we had much science in those days.... Hello!

*(Mr. Bones enters the room... speaks to students...)*

**NS:** Oh, we're having fun... I'm having fun, if they are!

**DB:** *Ok... (more discussion with students...)*

**NS:** I don't know if they want to go to a one room school house after this... (laughter)... might be fun for a while... um, yep...

**Student:** *If somebody misbehaved at school, what were some of the punishments?*

**NS:** I think they might have got sent to the cloak room... I don't know if they had to stand in the corner, but I think they were sent to the cloak room, right? Was yours that way? Uh, huh (yes)... or seat... or have to stay in at recess... that was... do they do that now? Make you stay in at recess?

**Student:** *Ya...*

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**NS:** Oh... well.... (laughing)...

**Voice:** Lot of times we had to go to the blackboard and write something on the blackboard... I will not do so and so...

**NS:** Oh, ya... that was true... what'd I do with that paper... no, the other paper I had that Dean gave me....

**Voice:** It's right here....

**NS:** Oh, it's folded up... of course! See, I'm nervous.... ok...

**Student:** *Uh, huh (yes)...*

**NS:** In here it tells that, uh... it was... the school house was built about 1921, I guess. Um... I had written this for last year, and they were busy and they didn't get it done... uh... I was five years old when I started the first grade in 1931... uh, huh (yes)... here are some of my memories of walking one-fourth mile to school, carrying an orange colored lunch pail and trying to skip over mud puddles. My folks thought I walked through every mud puddle as I wore out a pair of shoes every three months... that's no lie... one time I ran out of shoes, and my folks couldn't get to Tillamook right away, so I had to wear my grandma's ankle-topped old lady shoes... oh, my! But when I was growing up, no one made fun of you if you were dressed differently. Parents just didn't have lots of money to spend on clothes... boys wore overalls and girls wore dresses, and.... and that's the truth, you know... nobody looked down on anybody, we just wore what we had to wear, and hoped for a new dress or pants someday. Usually Christmas you got a new dress, and just before you went to school. Um... let's see... oh, I know one thing the teachers don't have you do, I bet... well, you have blackboards in some of the rooms, don't you?

**Student:** *We... we have... uh, dry erase boards... white boards...*

**NS:** Oh... oh, sure.. ya.. we thought that was fun... but, boy I can still remember that chalk dust...

**Student:** *Did some people have to do that for punishment?*

**Voice:** Ya...

**NS:** That could be... if you hadn't been too bad... you might have got to do that. Um.. and maybe you had to sweep the floor after school... I can remember the floor on our school was not the best in the west.. I guess they did what they had to.. they were wooden floors... well, wooden floors get dusty, you know... so they always put some kind of oil... spread oil on all of that floor, and tried to get most of it off... but if you got down on there, it'd.. you'd get it on your knees and stuff, so that wasn't so good.

**Student:** *Did you ever have to stay after school to do something for the teachers?*

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**NS:** Why, no, of course not! I was a little angel, don't you know! Whooo... (laughing)... I don't think I did... I might have had to carry in some wood or something sometime... uh, for a while, I was uh, like a janitor in the morning... the school teacher was getting pretty old and... so, I'd get up earlier in the morning and I would go up and start the fire in the school house and... and so it would be warm when she got there... And I suppose I... I... I think I had to sweep the floor and do that, but, uh... I told you that when our shoes got wet we hung our socks near the stove and spread our shoes around... ya, we sure did. Let's see... I told you about that.. so... I thought we had, uh... singing more than that, but I guess we only had it once a week, and uh...

**Voice:** Usually on Fridays, it was at ours... usually on Friday afternoon.

**NS:** Oh, yes, and we were probably some of the first that sold the stamps for tuberculosis... the stamps... and we'd ... they'd give us ten or twenty and we'd go home and ask our parents if they'd like to buy 'em.. a cent a piece, wasn't it? And... we thought that was great.

**Voice:** *Was that to help pay for the research?*

**NS:** For the... uh, huh ... uh, huh.. (yes, yes).. for tuberculosis.. t.b.... and then, uh.... the health nurse would come... her name was Bessie Wells and... what was kinda' neat about this ... when our kids started school, Bessie Wells was still the... the health nurse. Couldn't believe it... 'cause she wasn't young then! Anyway... she'd come and give us t.b. shots... tuberculosis shots... we didn't... it didn't really hurt that bad, but we were scared anyway... do you get shots sometimes at school?

**Student:** *Ya... Can you give us some of the names of the kids that you went to school with?*

**NS:** Oh... uh... the one that... our community didn't have very many girls in it, and that's no lie... and Dorothy Pieren, who is the grandmother of the Pieren girls that go to school here now... she was one year ahead of me... one older and so we stuck together, you know, real good... but, as far... there would be a few come and go... but there just wasn't many ... many girls in the school, and... and, uh...

**Voice:** You had Fitches...

**NS:** The Fitches... yes... Melvin Fitch, um... I don't think he went to school when I did, but he was born.. I mean, you know.. he's probably five or six years old... and, uh... let's see... oh, there was... um...

**Voice:** The Bonies...

**NS:** But they wouldn't know them...

**Voice:** Well, they just wanted to know their names...

**Student:** *We just want names of kids you went to school with...*



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**NS:** Oh, ok... um... there was the, um... oh, who had the mill up the river... um... um... you know who I mean... cut his arm off... I thought of it a while ago.. I was going...

**Voice:** Uh... Laven... Laven...

**NS:** No, it was bro... sis.. Mrs. Fitch was a Laven... and they were related to him... Loben.. it was Loben.. .he had a mill.. the only mill that I know was around, and that was up the Nestucca, and then you turned.. what is that road that he was...

**Voice:** Bible Creek..

**NS:** Bible Creek Road... and, uh... one time he got his arm too close, I guess... we always felt terrible when we saw him.. and I think it got it down here.. he had a little stump...

**Voice:** Didn't the Whites have children, too.. the Whites...

**NS:** Oh, no... there was a... that's kinda' interesting.. about halfway up the river... um... this man and woman, they built a house right on the edge of the county road, and ... and it was steep down there ... they put big old... what would you call it... piling up, and... and they built their house out in there.. I remember going with mama there and it was a nice house, but she was a music teacher... and her husband was like a carpenter, and he went and built benches out of limbs and stuff, and he put 'em up along the road for people to stop and picnic and... and he didn't charge anything... and I always think of that...

**Voice:** What was the family that lived right there at the base of Bible Creek?... um...

**NS:** Oh, the Davises and the Morey... Moreys... and the Scheeses... the Scheeses are still around... um...

**Voice:** And the... up above Slick Rock Creek... the, uh...

**NS:** The Duvalls and the... uh, huh (yes)

**Voice:** ... they went to school...

**NS:** Ummm... no, I think they were older than me... they might have went to high school... ya... ya.. there was the Joneses.. they went to Brown ...

**Voice:** Browning... well, you ...

**NS:** No... and, uh... let's see... there were Reeveses lived up there... several farms... uh... families of Reeves, but they didn't have any children, so... that was.. they were just neighbors. And, uh... oh, the Greenleighs, when I first started to school.. I'm not sure I even went to school with the Greenleighs, but my brothers did... and they lived across Niagara... there was no bridge there for a while and they would use the swinging bridge there to come, and one day, uh... one of the girls fell off down into the river, but she knew how to swim and she swam out... but that was scary.. we felt sorry for 'em.

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**Voice:** *Do you have anything else that you want to share, Naomi?*

**NS:** Oh, I don't know... I've rattled on a long time (laughing)... oh, sometimes after school, uh... there was a couple boys lived close that was in the same... well, one of 'em was in the same grade and the other one... but, anyway... they didn't have much to do, and the teachers... um... the teacher from Tillamook... her boy was in my class.. Howard... and, uh... we had a steep hill 'cross from our house and my dad had made a trail so the sheep could come down there, so we had a little red wagon... so we'd go up to the top of that hill and come tearin' down... sometimes we missed the bend and went down off the hill... but we had fun... it was fun...

**Voice:** *Now... if the girls... I'm going to take a picture... if the girls... would you want to turn the tape off, Amy? (end of tape)*

*Transcribed by Darleen Creecy Cole*