

Oral History Number: 120-014c
Interviewee: Lawrence Applebury
Interviewer: May Vallance
Date of Interview: circa 1978
Project: Bitterroot Historical Society Oral History Project

May Vallance: Would you tell me your name please?

Lawrence Applebury: Lawrence Applebury.

MV: Where did you go to school?

LA: The Willow Creek School.

MV: Where was that school?

LA: That was two miles east of the Brooks Hotel to the Willow Creek Road and one mile to the Willow Creek turnoff to the Willow Creek School.

MV: All right. What years did you go to school there?

LA: I started in October in 1909.

MV: How old were you then?

LA: I was 7 years old, I would be 8 in January.

MV: What grades did they have at the school?

LA: They had the first to the eighth.

MV: You started in the first grade?

LA: I started in the first grade.

MV: What do you remember about the school?

LA: Well, I remember that I went to school, started October of 1909 to Miss Lawyer (?). She taught the fall of 1909 and the spring of 1910. Blanche Holloron taught the fall of 1910 to the spring 1911. Miss Phelps from Stevensville taught the fall of 1911 and the spring of 1912. Sue

Kimberly the fall of 1912 and then she quit, and Ruth Pollangerd (?) taught the spring of '13. Then we consolidated with Corvallis in the fall of '13 and went to Corvallis in the fall of '13.

MV: Well, you certainly have a good memory [laughs]. That's wonderful.

LA: It's started to slip some, but I had a wonderful memory.

MV: Well, that's wonderful. Did you have programs? Did you have any fun at school?

LA: Oh, yes, we had entertainment. My sister and I started at the same time [laughs] and that's being all recorded, isn't it?

MV: That's right.

LA: My sister was in a program, Christmas, and she kind of got her S's kind of mixed up. So Maude and Ellie Wilcox, they were quite a bit older. Bill Rasmussen, he would say "Lois, what'd you say Maude and Ellie was going to do?"

"Ting a tong." [sing a song] Ting a tong, she said. I don't know what you ought to—

MV: Well, certainly that's part of it. Do you remember anything else about the program? Did all the people in the community come?

LA: Yes. It was quite a school until 1912. They built the Hamilton Heights School in 1912.

MV: Then, did you go to Hamilton Heights?

LA: No.

MV: [talking at same time] No. That divided—

LA: [unintelligible] divided.

MV: That's right. I remember that. About how many students did you have there, do you remember? On the average?

LA: Now let's see. How many is in that picture? Two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve. After the Hamilton Heights started, there was probably about 15, 16. There's several, a good many of them that weren't there—

MV: When the picture—

LA: —when the picture was taken.

MV: Well, then, did you have evening affairs? Did they have dances in the school?

LA: They had dances once in a while.

MV: Do you remember any funny incidences at the dances?

LA: That's where I learned to dance. I can't really remember anything in particular.

MV: I suppose you had a picnic on the last day of school?

LA: Oh, yes. We always had a picnic on the last day of school.

MV: Did you have homemade ice cream?

LA: Now that I can't remember for sure.

MV: You can't remember. I suppose your programs were [on] special holidays: Thanksgiving and Christmas.

LA: It was Christmas. We had quite a program on Christmas. I don't remember—

MV: But not so much as Easter time.

LA: Well, I don't remember Easter time, too.

MV: You don't remember any of the funny things that happened in school?

LA: Well, I do. [laughs] When Blanche Holloron, the year she taught. You know, she was a small girl, and those big kids, the eighth graders, they'd torment her until they'd get her mad. When we had those stones, you know had these big long sticks about like that. Bill had done something to her, and she picked up one of them and started after him, and she'd hop over a seat. Then he'd hop back over another one. She could never did catch him; she started crying, and finally she [unintelligible]. That's the funniest thing I can—that was really funny.

MV: Yes, I imagine all the kids really had a good time. Well, this has been very interesting and I certainly appreciate your telling us about that school because this is going to be very valuable in the days that come, and I thank you ever so much. This concludes the interview with Lawrence Applebury, student at the Willow Creek School, district number 25.

[End of Interview]