

Questions to Prompt Memories by Teachers

2016

Please answer any or all of the following questions and use back of these pages.

Feel free to add other thoughts you have...tell me your stories!

Name: _____
First Maiden Last

Address: _____
Street, PO Box Town State Zipcode

Phone: _____ email: _____

School name (s): _____

School location: _____
Township Town State

Date of Years taught: (i.e. 1945-53) 19 _____ through 19 _____ Is schoolhouse still standing? _____

Please describe:

1. What is your background – where you grew up and went to school. If you attended a country school, please tell that story using the “student” questionnaire questions.
2. Why did you decide to teach at a country school?
3. Did you stay in the area where you taught? Why?
4. Were you involved in the consolidation of rural schools? What was your role? How did it affect you?

School Days Stories

1. How far was the school from your home?
2. Where did you live? schoolhouse, patron’s home, teacherage, your own home?
3. How did you get to school – horse, walk, ride, and bicycle?? Did you have any adventures on your way to school?

4. What did you do in case of storms, blizzards?
5. What do you remember about teaching your first day of school?
6. How many students? Were they siblings?
7. Of the subjects you taught, did you have a favorite? Did you have a least favorite?
8. How did your day start at school, i.e. flag-raising, singing songs, bell (hand bell or bell tower) to call students back to class, reading?
9. Did you bring your lunch to school? How did you carry it? Did you cook it at school?
10. Did you play with students at recess? Were there ever any rattlesnakes, other concerns in your school yard?
11. Was there ever a need and if so, how were students disciplined at your school?

Schoolhouse Stories

12. Was there a piano or organ in your school? Did you play it?
13. Did you have electricity and use a radio, record player, tape player, TV?
14. Did you have outhouses or indoor bathrooms at your school? Did you look out for "critters" outside?
15. Did you have running water? How did you get drinking water at your school?
16. How was your school heated? What kind of fuel was used? Did you have to start the stove each day?
17. Was there a library in your school? How did you get more books to read? What stories did you read aloud?
18. Did you have a telephone at school?

19. Do you remember social events at the school like: Christmas play, box or pie socials, spelling bees, Rally Day, Field Day, Declam? How did you prepare students for contests or programs? How did you decorate at Christmas? Any unique or funny stories?

20. Did you go to the schoolhouse for other community events like voting, card parties, weddings, safety in a blizzard?

21. What do you remember about the last day of school each year? Did you give a graduation souvenir?

22. What is your favorite story you remember about teaching in country school?

23. Do you think the education you gave the children was sufficient for high school, college, and to be successful as an adult? Tell me why?

Date completed: _____

*Do you have any photos of you, your students and/or your schoolhouse that you could share? These will be returned to you.

You can use a separate sheet for your answers, or email document to Betsey at betseydsd@mncomm.com.