

Questions to Prompt Memories by Teachers

Return to Betsey your earliest convenience – Thank you!

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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: _____ Year of Birth: _____
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 you background – where you grew up and went to school. [If you attended a country school, please tell that story using the “student” questionnaire questions.] What is your ethnic background and did your family homestead in SD?
2. Why did you decide to teach at a country school? What training did you have to become a teacher?
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. Where did you live – at the schoolhouse, patron’s home, teacherage, your own home? How far was the school from where you lived?
2. How did you get to school – horse, walk, ride, and buggy, sleigh? Did you have any adventures on your way to school?

3. What did you do in case of storms, blizzards? Were you involved in any major storms? Describe your experience.
4. What do you remember about teaching your first day of school?
5. How many students? Were they siblings?
6. Of the subjects you taught, did you have a favorite? Did you have a least favorite? Did you teach penmanship or SD History? Why or why not?
7. How did your day start at school, i.e. Raise the flag, Pledge of Allegiance; singing songs – which ones; bell (hand bell or bell tower) to call students back to class; reading aloud, Show and Tell?
8. Did you bring your lunch to school? How did you carry it? Did you cook it at school?
9. Did you play with students at recess? What games did you play? Were there ever any rattlesnakes, other concerns in your schoolyard?
10. Was there ever a need and if so, how were students disciplined at your school?

Schoolhouse Stories

11. Was there a piano or organ in your school? Did you play it? Any other musical instruments?
12. Did you have electricity and use a radio, record player, tape player, smartboard, computers, iPads, TV?
13. Did you have outhouses or indoor bathrooms at your school? Did you look out for “critters” outside?
14. Did you have running water? How did you get drinking water at your school?
15. How was your school heated? What kind of fuel was used? Did you have to start the stove each day?
16. Did you have a telephone at school? If not, how did you get messages to or from parents?
17. Was there a library in your school? How did you get more books to read? What stories did you read aloud?

