

An Interview with
Joy Starr Zumwalt

at her home in
Columbia, Missouri

3 June 2011

interviewed by Jeff D. Corrigan



Oral History Program
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PREFACE

Joy Starr Zumwalt was born in Trenton, Missouri, on December 28, 1921. Zumwalt grew up on a farm in Hallsville, before her family moved to a farm outside of Columbia, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse. She not only attended a one-room school, but also taught six years at the Duncan one-room school before it consolidated with the Millersburg School, a newly built two-room school where she taught six more years. Miss Joy as she was affectionately known in those days earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Missouri while she taught. Mrs. Zumwalt retired after eighteen additional years of teaching at the grade school in Centralia, Missouri.

The interview was taped on a CompactFlash card, using a Marantz PMD-660 digital recorder and an audio-technica AT825 microphone placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets []. Any use of parentheses () indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks [“”] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [____] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [____(??)] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Jeff D. Corrigan.

Narrator: Joy Zumwalt
Interviewer: Jeff Corrigan
Date: June 3, 2011
Transcribed by: Teresa Bergen

5

[Begin Interview.]

[Begin Track One.]

10

Corrigan: This is Jeff Corrigan, oral historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri. And I'm here today, June 3, 2011, in the home of Joy Starr Zumwalt. Or is it Zumwalt?

Zumwalt: Zumwalt. [long "u" sound]

15

Corrigan: Zumwalt. In Columbia, Missouri, to interview her about her experiences both attending and teaching in a one-room schoolhouse. Before we talk about the one-room schoolhouses, could you tell me when and where you were born?

20

Zumwalt: I was born in Trenton, Missouri, and lived there one year. And we moved to Columbia when I was a year old. And my daddy went to the University of Missouri.

Corrigan: And he attended there?

25

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And when's your birthday?

Zumwalt: December 28, 1921.

30

Corrigan: So one year in Trenton. And then from Columbia then on, you've been here your entire life?

Zumwalt: We moved to a farm west of Hallsville when I was between two and three years old. And lived there for several years.

35

Corrigan: Could you tell me a little bit about your family? Did you have any brothers or sisters? What did your parents do?

40

Zumwalt: I have one older brother. He was nine years older than me. And when I was born, Daddy sent him over to the neighbors, because I was born at home. So as he went to the neighbors, he told me daddy, "I do hope she doesn't have anything contagious."

Zumwalt's Son: Hello?

45

Corrigan: You have somebody here. [pause in recording] Okay. We just had a brief pause here. What you were telling me about was that you had an older brother that was nine years older than you. What was his name?

5 Zumwalt: Harold. Harold Starr. S-t-a-r-r

Corrigan: What were your parents' names?

Zumwalt: My mother was Hazel Crowder Starr.

10

Corrigan: What was your father's name?

Zumwalt: Morgan Jerome Starr. When he was growing up, they nicknamed him Rome. (laughs)

15

Corrigan: Rome? What did your parents do for a living?

Zumwalt: They were farming people. We lived on a farm.

20 Corrigan: And where was the farm located?

Zumwalt: Well, we lived different, first we lived just west of Hallsville on a farm. Then we moved to Moberly one year and lived on a farm east of Moberly. Then we moved back to Columbia area and had a farm on West Broadway. You know where Rothwell Heights is now?

25

Corrigan: Yes.

Zumwalt: Okay. That was our farm.

30

Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: Lived there about three miles out from the city limits of Columbia. And I used to walk to Columbia. Sometimes rode the pony. Can you imagine riding the pony now down Broadway? (laughter)

35

Corrigan: And so you had a pony. What other kind of livestock did you have, or what crops did he grow?

40 Zumwalt: Daddy planted corn. And I've got a picture of him with the corn planter. And he had cattle and hogs. And Mother raised turkeys and chickens.

Corrigan: Okay. And did you have chores to do around the farm when you were younger? Did you have to collect eggs or anything?

45

Zumwalt: Yes, I used to help gather the eggs. I can't remember doing too much. Mother seemed to take care of it. (laughs)

5 Corrigan: Well then I guess if you had a brother that was nine years older, he probably was quite busy around the farm.

Zumwalt: Yes.

10 Corrigan: Now when and where did you start school?

Zumwalt: I started Roberts School, which is west and south, no, west and north, of Hallsville itself.

15 Corrigan: And that was a one-room schoolhouse.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Could you describe it? Was it white? Was it red?

20 Zumwalt: It was white.

Corrigan: It was white? What about the inside? What do you remember about the inside? Do you remember, did they have a cloakroom when you walked in? Were there windows on both sides of the building? Just anything that you can remember.

25 Zumwalt: I think there were windows on two sides of our classroom. And as I remember, our seats were fastened to—

[End Track 1. Begin Track 2.]

30 Zumwalt: —the floor.

Corrigan: Was there a big chalkboard in the front, or did you have individual slates?

35 Zumwalt: No, we had a big chalkboard.

Corrigan: Did you have outhouses, then?

40 Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Was there one for boys and girls? Or was there just one?

Zumwalt: There was one for boys and one for girls.

45 Corrigan: Okay. Did people, did everybody walk, or did people ride horses or ponies, or—

Zumwalt: I rode a pony part of the time. But most people walked. There was a barn there where I could tie the pony.

5 Corrigan: Now was the school, was it on a corner of somebody's farm?

Zumwalt: Yes. It was on the northeast corner of an intersection.

Corrigan: And how far was it from where you lived?

10 Zumwalt: A mile.

Corrigan: So you walked a mile each day or rode your pony each day?

15 Zumwalt: Uh huh. When I was in first and second grade, Mother took me. She drove a buggy, a one-horse buggy.

Corrigan: And then when you got a little older, you could ride a pony yourself?

20 Zumwalt: Yes, uh huh. I walked at first, and then we got a pony and I rode her.

Corrigan: Because if your brother was a lot older, he wouldn't have been in school the whole, just for a few years while you were there.

25 Zumwalt: Well, when I started first grade, he started high school. The high school was located in Hallsville itself.

Corrigan: So you never went to school together, then.

30 Zumwalt: No.

Corrigan: Do you remember how the school was heated? Was it coal or wood or—

Zumwalt: Hmm. It probably was coal, but I really don't remember about the stove.

35 Corrigan: Did you take your lunch each day?

Zumwalt: Yes.

40 Corrigan: What kinds of things did your mom pack for you? What did you take?

Zumwalt: Well, in a gallon syrup bucket, it had a lid. She would fix me a sandwich. Sometimes an egg sandwich. Sometimes maybe a sausage sandwich. And she baked, so I either had a cookie or I had cake. And I ate so slowly that it took me, I never played at noon because it took me all hour to get my lunch eaten. (laughs) I still eat slowly. Everybody else is through and I'm still eating. (laughs)

45

Corrigan: And was, did you have a full hour for lunch?

Zumwalt: Yes.

5 Corrigan: And then did you have recess in the morning and afternoon?

Zumwalt: Yes.

10 Corrigan: Do you remember, was it 15 minutes long? Or do you remember roughly how long it was?

Zumwalt: I don't remember the length of recess.

15 Corrigan: Did some kids, did everybody eat at the school? Or did some kids go home?

Zumwalt: Everybody ate at school.

Corrigan: Everybody ate at school.

20 Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Do you remember any of the games that you played outside for recess?

25 Zumwalt: At Roberts School, I never got to play because I told you, it took me that long to eat my lunch. So I don't remember. Other children, I'm sure, played games. But I don't remember what they did.

30 Corrigan: Did you all have like a water bucket with a ladle? Or did you each have your own individual cups?

Zumwalt: At that school, I don't remember. Probably had individual cups. I remember what we had at Duncan. (laughs)

35 Corrigan: Yeah, I figured you probably remembered a lot more there.

Zumwalt: Yes.

40 Corrigan: Was the school, at Roberts School, do you remember how many kids were in your class or in the school? Was there very many kids?

Zumwalt: We may have had, say, 25 or something like that.

Corrigan: Okay.

45 Zumwalt: Between 25 and 30.

Corrigan: Now how long did you go to Roberts School?

5 Zumwalt: I went there the first four years. And then we got a teacher that, we always wondered why the board hired her, because she did not teach. Noon came, she laid down, took a nap. (laughs) So it was a bit of bedlam, I think.

Corrigan: Was that the only teacher you had there?

10 Zumwalt: No. I had a real good teacher in third grade, fourth grade. She's dead now, but I used to go see her after I was married. And then fifth grade, I went into Hallsville for one year. Then sixth and seventh—

[End Track 2. Begin Track 3.]

15 Zumwalt: —I went back to Roberts. And then we moved to Moberly. So my eighth grade was a country school east of Moberly. Cottage Grove.

Corrigan: That was the name of the school or the name of the—

20 Zumwalt: That was the name of the school.

Corrigan: Okay. Was that a one-room schoolhouse, too?

Zumwalt: Yes. And it's still standing there.

25

Corrigan: Oh, it is!

Zumwalt: It was the last time that I was up there.

30 Corrigan: Was it ever, was it converted to something? Like a house? Or was it just kind of just—

Zumwalt: It was just kind of abandoned.

35 Corrigan: Okay. What about, do you remember, Roberts School, was it tore down a long time ago? Or did it stay around for a while?

40 Zumwalt: You know, I don't know. I knew the lady that bought it, that bought the farm and it had become a part of that farm again. Because she taught at Centralia when I did. But I don't know when the school actually went down.

Corrigan: Was the other school, you said you were at Hallsville, then you were in town for one year. But when you were back out at Moberly was it the same kind of school? White? Very similar setup in that?

45

Zumwalt: Yes. That was my first man teacher was my eighth grade teacher.

Corrigan: Okay. Was that still a one-room?

Zumwalt: Yes.

5

Corrigan: Okay. And then where did you end up going to high school?

Zumwalt: Hickman.

10

Corrigan: Oh, okay. We'll talk about that in a second then. Do you remember, when you were going to a one-room schoolhouse, do you remember, were you able to learn a lot from what the other kids were doing, the older kids? Did you pay attention to them? Or were you really focused on what you were doing?

15

Zumwalt: I think I must have been focused on what I was doing.

Corrigan: Do you remember, what was your favorite subject?

20

Zumwalt: Oh, (laughs) I hadn't thought about that. I liked everything, particularly reading.

Corrigan: Okay. Did the school have a lot of books? Did it have a little library?

Zumwalt: It had a little library, uh huh. Not an abundance of books, but we had some.

25

Corrigan: Okay. Do you remember doing any type of social activities at the school? Did you have Christmas programs? Did you have pie suppers or anything?

Zumwalt: I'm sure we did, but I don't really remember them.

30

Corrigan: Do you remember, did you do any art or music?

35

Zumwalt: I don't remember of having much art and music when I was in grade school. Now, when I went fifth grade into town at Hallsville (coughs) excuse me. I don't know that they taught any art. But the teacher discovered that I was good at drawing. So she gave me one section of the blackboard that was mine. And everybody else was told, "Don't touch it." (laughs) So whatever I drew, it stayed there until I wanted to change it. That was my section, and nobody touched it. (laughs) She was a good teacher.

40

Corrigan: Did you ever, that makes me think of it, did you ever have to clean erasers or anything? Or do chores in school?

Zumwalt: Different children took turns doing that.

45

Corrigan: Did your parents really, did they really value education?

Zumwalt: Yes. Yes. Daddy went two years to the University of Missouri.

Corrigan: So it was important that you went to school. You went to school every day and you did your work.

5 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: I'm going to move now to, well, let's first, you then went to Hickman High School.

10 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And that was a much bigger school.

Zumwalt: Yes. I went Jeff Junior [High School] one year.

15

Corrigan: Okay. How was that transition? Do you remember? From going to the one-room schoolhouse to a junior high and then high school?

Zumwalt: I don't remember of it ever bothering me. I seemed to make the transition easily.

20

Corrigan: Now could you tell me how you got into teaching? Before you got to Duncan. How did you, when did you decide to become a teacher? How did you go about that?

Zumwalt: All right. I remember walking on the University of Missouri campus, thinking now, my brother had graduated and I knew that I was going to go to the MU.

25

Corrigan: Now what age are you talking about now? You said you were walking around. Roughly.

30 Zumwalt: Okay. Eighteen, nineteen years old.

[End Track 3. Begin Track 4.]

Zumwalt: Or something like that.

35

Corrigan: Okay. So after high school.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

40 Corrigan: Okay. So you were walking around MU.

Zumwalt: And at that time, I thought I would go into home economics. And so, I'm so glad that I waited (laughs) and went into teaching.

45 Corrigan: So you then attended the University of Missouri?

Zumwalt: Yes. I began, well, when I first began to teach, you had to have 16 hours. And I had, my daughter was in second grade. Of course, first grade, and then second grade. And I used to go visit. And I went to the president of the school board and I said, "Have you ever visited [the] school?" "No." I said, "You ought to. That's the duller place I ever saw. They don't have any music. They don't have any art. They don't have any supervision on the playground." I said, "It's just you stand up, recite your lesson and sit down." I said, "It's the duller place I've ever been." I said, "I could take it and teach and we would have fun. We'd have playground supervision, and we could have art and music. We'd have a good school." He said, "Okay, you get 16 hours, that's what you need next year, and the school's yours." So I went that winter to night classes and got eight hours. Went the next summer to the eight-week session, got eight hours. And I had my 16 hours. I started teaching.

Corrigan: Now what school were you talking about that your daughter went to?

15 Zumwalt: Duncan School.

Corrigan: Oh, you were talking about Duncan School.

Zumwalt: Yes.

20

Corrigan: So you went to the president of the school board there and told him. Okay.

Zumwalt: Yes.

25 Corrigan: So where were you living then? Were you living in that general area?

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you live far from the school?

30

Zumwalt: Yes. We were, if you cut across the field, it was probably about a mile. But when you went around the road, it was closer to two miles.

35 Corrigan: So you got your 16 hours. You did that. Were you working during the days? You said you took night classes.

Zumwalt: Well, I had two children, so I took night classes.

Corrigan: So you did that in a year.

40

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: And then you started teaching at Duncan School.

45 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you continue to go to school?

5 Zumwalt: Every summer I got eight hours. And I also would go to night classes in the winter and get eight hours. And I did that until I needed one year to graduate. And I said, “Cecil, if I don’t teach this year, we won’t have as much money. But I can get my degree and we can also have another child.” (laughs) So we had Daniel. So I carried Daniel while I was in school. And other students were so careful to help me up steps and down steps.

10 Corrigan: So you mentioned Cecil. Cecil’s your husband.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Now when did you get married?

15 Zumwalt: Oh, I’ll have to think back. A long time ago. (laughs)

Corrigan: Okay. But before you, before you went to school and that, before you went to college. Okay. So you took one year off from teaching at Duncan. And then you got your degree.

20

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: When did you graduate from MU?

25 Zumwalt: Uh—

Corrigan: Is that your diploma right there on the wall?

Zumwalt: Yes. Take a look.

30

Corrigan: I thought I noticed it there. So you got a bachelor’s in science and education.

Zumwalt: And then my master’s degree.

35 Corrigan: So 1956, you graduated from there.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And then you got a master’s degree, a master’s of education, it looks like.

40

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

Corrigan: In 1967.

45 Zumwalt: Yes, that’s right.

Corrigan: And both at MU.

Zumwalt: Yes.

5 Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: Yes, I was most fortunate. The principal said, "There are ten fellowships being offered throughout the whole United States. But if you want to apply, anybody wants to apply for one, go ahead." So I did.

10

Corrigan: And what kind of fellowship was it?

Zumwalt: A fellowship to teach reading.

15

Corrigan: Okay. So this was a national thing. And you applied to it. And you received it. Is that what paid for you to go to the University of Missouri?

Zumwalt: Yes. Uh huh. Paid my tuition. Paid my books. It was great.

20

Corrigan: Was it fairly expensive back then, to go to school at the time?

Zumwalt: When I first started, a summer session cost me ten dollars. And by the time I got my master's, I don't remember. Because somebody else paid for it. The government paid for it.

25

Corrigan: Did your parents help you out in the beginning to pay those? Or were you married by then?

[End Track 4. Begin Track 5.]

30

Zumwalt: I was married.

Corrigan: Okay. So now you, so your first teaching job was at Duncan School.

35

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Can you tell me about Duncan School? Same thing we talked about before. How big it was, what it looked like, you know, the inside, the outside. Can you tell me what you remember?

40

Zumwalt: Oh, yes. It was a white school house. Had a flagpole out on the south side. And it had two entryways, which originally was set up for boys to go in one and girls in the other. But we usually left the one door closed and just used one entryway.

45

Corrigan: And you had outhouses there, too.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you have a barn for horses or anything?

5 Zumwalt: We had a coal house, but we didn't have any barn.

Corrigan: So then it was heated by coal, then.

Zumwalt: Yes.

10

Corrigan: And where was the school located at?

Zumwalt: If you're in Millersburg and go south, you go on Route J, and it was the second lane going east off of Route J from Millersburg.

15

Corrigan: And did you have a big chalkboard in the front?

Zumwalt: Yes.

20

Corrigan: Okay. Were the seats bolted down there, too, or no? Did you have individual seats?

Zumwalt: There were individual seats.

25

Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: But I believe they were, I believe they were on a board. So you could move a whole section if you had enough strength.

30

Corrigan: And did you have the kids sit, was it youngest to oldest?

Zumwalt: I think the, I grouped them younger ones together and older ones over on the other side.

35

Corrigan: You said you had a flagpole out front. Did the kids raise the flag?

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And did they do that every day, then?

40

Zumwalt: Yes. And we pledged allegiance to that.

Corrigan: Oh, you did. Did you do that outside, the pledge of allegiance? Or did you do that inside?

45

Zumwalt: We did that inside. And I sometimes read a psalm from the bible.

Corrigan: Okay. Inside or outside?

Zumwalt: Inside.

5

Corrigan: Inside. Okay. Now, now I think Loucile told me, one of your students, that you had a watering bucket with I believe was it individual ladles?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

10

Corrigan: And so was there water outside, then? Did somebody have to carry the water in?

Zumwalt: Yes. We had a well with an old pump.

15

Corrigan: Now did you have help? Did any of the older kids, was it their job to bring in the coal or bring in the water? Or did you have to do that yourself?

Zumwalt: They loved to do that. So one of the boys always took care of that.

20

Corrigan: Okay. So how early did you usually arrive at the school each day?

Zumwalt: I think I was there between eight and 8:30. Usually eight o'clock I'd be there.

Corrigan: And then what time did the school go till?

25

Zumwalt: Till four o'clock.

Corrigan: Till four. Okay.

30

Zumwalt: Uh huh. And then later we changed and got out at 3:30. And we had, when I first went there, the fourth Friday we could get off at noon, if you had perfect attendance. Now if you didn't have perfect attendance, I was required to stay with whoever stayed. Well, we had one board member that was a little bit cantankerous. And one Friday afternoon it was his son that didn't have perfect attendance. So I stayed with him. Well, Father did not like that at all, and so he sent an older child back to get the little brother. "He's not going to stay." (laughs) And I said, "All right. I'll leave, too, and you can leave, and we'll just do away with that. After that, we'll have school on Friday afternoon."

35

Corrigan: So you did, then.

40

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: So was every third Friday that you could do this? Or was it every Friday?

45

Zumwalt: Every fourth Friday.

Corrigan: Every fourth, I'm sorry, every fourth Friday. You could have got out at noon if the students had perfect attendance. Was that your rule or was that the school board?

Zumwalt: That was already established when I went there.

5

Corrigan: Okay. Okay. And then that went away when, okay. (Zumwalt laughs) Now the school went to four. Were you able to leave around then? Or did you have stay? And did you have to grade things?

10 Zumwalt: I usually took papers home with me and graded at night at home.

Corrigan: Now roughly how many kids did you have? How many kids were you teaching at any given time?

15 **[End Track 5. Begin Track 6.]**

Zumwalt: Fourteen was the most I had. I think the least number that I had when I taught at Duncan was nine. So it was kind of like a family.

20 Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: And of course, everybody brought their lunch. But in winter, I would put a pot of beans on top of the stove. And they would cook during the morning. And one of the Barnes girls, the older, would peel potatoes and drop in with the beans at a certain time. And so
25 everybody had a hot lunch that day.

Corrigan: And how often did you do that?

Zumwalt: During the winter, I expect we did it every other week for a while.

30

Corrigan: Okay. So kids, did everybody stay for lunch?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

35 Corrigan: And did you have the one-hour lunch?

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And then did you have a recess in the morning and the afternoon?

40

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Now, did you supervise those recesses?

45 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Because that was one of your, you didn't like that previously.

Zumwalt: (laughs) That's right. The other teacher had no idea what went on on the playground. But I played with them, and they loved that.

5

Corrigan: Do you remember the kind of things that you played?

Zumwalt: We played Annie Over. And we played what we called the circle game, in which you drew a line in the yard. And if you stepped over, you could be tagged and you became a part of their team. But if you could run around somebody, that's why it was called circle, if you could circle them without being tagged, they had to become a member of your team. So they played that quite a little bit.

10

Corrigan: What did you do when bad weather happened? Did you just stay inside?

15

Zumwalt: We stayed inside and I had a little record player. So we played music. Sometimes we did the Virginia Reel. And once in a while I'd call a square dance for them.

Corrigan: Was there room in the school to square dance? Did you have to move the—

20

Zumwalt: Had to move. (laughs)

Corrigan: You had to move all the desks away to the sides?

25

Zumwalt: Yes. And when we consolidated and I had the first four grades in Millersburg, during the noon hour there, we'd move all the desks aside and we'd do the Virginia Reel. Well, the kids in the other room would come over and join mine because they loved that, and their teacher didn't approve of dancing. (laughs) So they came and joined me.

30

Corrigan: Now, could you describe your typical day teaching at the one-room schoolhouse? What your, how you laid it out, what you did?

Zumwalt: Okay. When you have that many students in that many grades, if you lay it out, you've just got about five minutes here and five minutes here and five minutes with the next group. But what I would do, I would start everybody on their activity. Then I'd go back to the first group and work with them. And then I could go to the next group and work with them individually.

35

Corrigan: Were you able to give, if somebody needed it, one-on-one attention?

40

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Okay. Did you teach all the subjects every day? Or did you rotate, was it every other day?

45

Zumwalt: We rotated geography and social studies so that, and we may have taken one quarter and did the social studies one quarter and geography, I varied that.

5 Corrigan: It can't be easy to be teaching eight grades and, say, seven or eight subjects apiece. That's a lot of classes to cover.

Zumwalt: Yeah, it is.

10 Corrigan: Did you have to be extremely organized?

Zumwalt: Yes, you did.

Corrigan: Did you have support from the school board and parents?

15 Zumwalt: Yes. Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Was it an active school board?

20 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you have enough textbooks? Did you have enough work for the students to do?

25 Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Did you have a favorite subject that you liked to teach?

Zumwalt: Reading.

30 Corrigan: Reading. At all levels.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm. The first grade, particularly.

35 Corrigan: Now why first graders?

Zumwalt: It's so fascinating. Most of them came not being able to read anything.

[End Track 6. Begin Track 7.]

40 Zumwalt: And we had Sally, Dick and Jane, which they just loved. And I usually had maybe only two or three in each grade. And so I would sit at my desk and one would stand at this hand and one would stand over here, and we'd have our class there at my desk. And one of my students said, "Did I used to sit in your lap when we had reading?" She said, "I think I did." I don't remember that myself, but she thinks she sat in my lap while she read to me.
45 (laughs)

Corrigan: Now did you have a lot of books in the school so the kids could read?

Zumwalt: Yes. We had sufficient books.

5 Corrigan: Now was that something, did you bring them in? Did the school pay for them?

Zumwalt: School paid for them.

10 Corrigan: Were you ever without if you needed paper, pencils? Did you have those kind of supplies that you needed to teach? Chalk?

Zumwalt: We had a pie supper each fall. And I took the pie supper money and bought art supplies and extra pencils and whatever.

15 Corrigan: Now you mentioned art. And Loucile, your student, my coworker, she mentioned remembering a lot of music.

Zumwalt: Yes.

20 Corrigan: Was there a piano there, I think she said?

Zumwalt: Yes.

25 Corrigan: Okay. I'd like you to talk about both. But what kinds of art and music activities did you do with the kids?

30 Zumwalt: We had, occasionally we'd go outdoors and everybody would take their art paper and their drawing. And we might sit on the hillside and they could draw whatever they wanted to draw. Whatever they saw. So some of them would draw the schoolhouse and various, whatever they saw, they could draw.

Corrigan: Were these all pencil drawings?

Zumwalt: Yes.

35 Corrigan: Okay. So you went and did outside drawing.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

40 Corrigan: What other types of things did you do? Was there craft projects?

Zumwalt: Don't remember any craft.

45 Corrigan: I believe, Loucile told me that you decorated a lot for Christmas.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: So I think she remembers making Christmas decorations.

5 Zumwalt: Yes. Yes. One year, of course we always had someone bring in a cedar tree and put it up. And one year I told the children to bring the can lids. When your mother opens a can, save the lid and bring it in. So I would take a hammer and nail and make a hole in it. And they decorated those with glue and glitter. And they put them on the Christmas tree.

10 Corrigan: And you said it was a cedar tree?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: About how tall, or how big, it would just vary? Or—

15 Zumwalt: Taller than, a little bit taller than I am.

Corrigan: Okay. Now you decorated for Christmas, because you did have a Christmas program. Did all the parents come in?

20 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Was it the same thing each year? Or did you change it each year? The Christmas program.

25 Zumwalt: It varied. We would do the Christmas manger scene with the shepherds. And—

Corrigan: Was it musical or was it, or a variety of everything? Did they have speaking parts and—

30 Zumwalt: They had poems that they learned. And then we had some unison work.

Corrigan: Now I take it you played the piano.

35 Zumwalt: They thought I was wonderful. I was very feeble at it, but they thought I was great. (laughs)

Corrigan: Did any of the kids know how to play the piano?

40 Zumwalt: No.

Corrigan: No. Okay. You mentioned, we were talking about reading a little bit ago, most kids came in, they could not read. Is that correct?

45 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did they know their alphabet? Or did they know—

Zumwalt: Some of them did.

Corrigan: Some of them did. Was that, because there was no kindergarten then.

5

Zumwalt: That's right.

Corrigan: It was just first grade.

10

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: So most of these kids are five and six? Is that—

Zumwalt: They were six.

15

Corrigan: Six? Was that challenging, to try to teach kids from the scratch? Because you didn't have much time with them. Or did you ever utilize the other grades? Did you ever have the younger students work with some of the older students?

20

Zumwalt: Not too much. They seemed to, once I got them started, they seemed to work independently pretty well.

Corrigan: Now do you think the younger kids did learn from—

25

[End Track 7. Begin Track 8.]

Corrigan: —from the older kids? Do you think they, because they knew it was coming then. They knew the kinds of activities. I was wondering if you thought, you know, if they had an advantage because they knew what was coming. Was that good, was that bad, or [were] people always trying to skip ahead? I'm just curious. You have to keep them on track, but it's not like they didn't know what was going on in the rest of the room.

30

Zumwalt: I think they learned to tune out and concentrate pretty well. Most of them did. One year I got a student, a little girl, that had never had much individual help. And she was the only student in that grade. So she would beg me at recess, "Miss Joy, don't go outdoors. Sit down here and help me with my English." And so with my ear tuned to the playground, I would spend part of my recess with her, because she'd never had individual help before. And she was just like a little sponge. (laughs)

35

40

Corrigan: Now how did you get to the school each day?

Zumwalt: I drove a Model A Ford.

Corrigan: Oh, you did. You drove a Model A Ford. How far did you live away?

45

Zumwalt: Uh, across the field, it would have been a mile. But going around the road, it was probably a couple of miles.

5 Corrigan: Now we talked about the Christmas program, but I'd like you to tell me more about the pie suppers. What did that entail? What did you do? How much money did you raise? I'm just curious about that. It's interesting.

10 Zumwalt: Of course, it was well attended. People, even, you know, the neighborhood came whether they had a child in school or not. We had good attendance. And I had someone that liked to do auctioneer. They weren't really an auctioneer, but they enjoyed that. So they volunteered their services. And every young lady or girl or married lady was to bring a box with a pie and whatever else she wanted to put in there. It could be fruit or cookies or whatever. And they were numbered. And you weren't supposed to know whose number it was. But the young men had a pretty good idea of what their wife's box looked like, or their girlfriend's. (laughs) So when it came to the teacher's box, my husband paid a good price for it. (laughs) They would bid it purposely up. But that's how we raised our money for art supplies and so forth.

20 Corrigan: Now what time of year did this take place?

Zumwalt: Probably October.

25 Corrigan: Oh, okay. October. Now was it typical that, even though they weren't supposed to know, that the husband or the family bought the cake or bought the pie that was brought by their family?

Zumwalt: Yes.

30 Corrigan: So they could show that they paid a good price for it?

Zumwalt: Yes.

35 Corrigan: Do you remember at all, I mean, how much did pies go for? Or how much money did you typically raise?

Zumwalt: I think usually we got between \$70 and \$80 with our pie supper.

Corrigan: So was that a good sum to buy a lot of supplies?

40 Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: And where did you usually buy all your supplies?

45 Zumwalt: You know, I don't remember.

Corrigan: Was it in Columbia, probably? Or no?

Zumwalt: Well, I was closer to Fulton. So I probably bought them in Fulton.

5 Corrigan: Was there any other type of social activities at the school besides the Christmas program and the pie suppers? Was it ever used as a community gathering place, or just a school? Did you have a graduation?

Zumwalt: Yes.

10 Corrigan: So you graduated the eighth graders each year?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

Corrigan: What did you do?

15

Zumwalt: Well, we would put, take a strip of, I can't think of what the paper, to call it. But anyway, we would decorate with paper, strips of paper. Twirl it and fasten it—

[End Track 8. Begin Track 9.]

20

Zumwalt: —on each end.

Corrigan: Like streamers or tissue paper?

25

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

Corrigan: Okay.

30

Zumwalt: And they would put, whoever was graduating, their names were written up on the chalkboard at the front.

Corrigan: And was this during school that you did this? Or was it—

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

35

Corrigan: And did family members come or was it just for the school?

Zumwalt: When we had, whenever we had something at school, the whole neighborhood came. Whether they had children there or not.

40

Corrigan: So it was a community gathering place, then.

Zumwalt: Yes.

45

Corrigan: So it was an active community then.

Zumwalt: Yes.

5 Corrigan: I seem to remember Loucile telling me that an aunt or an uncle would come, even though they didn't have children. That it was really, people came from all over if they were related to one of the kids to see these activities, to see the Christmas program, to go to the pie supper. That these were, it was a social place to go to.

Zumwalt: Yes.

10 Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: I had a variety of kind of students. And one little boy was a Mongoloid. And little fellow, he still remembered me up until his death. I heard from, he went into a nursing home. And I communicated with the lady that was supervisor. And she said, "Leo still remembers you. He talks about you." And I did, he had been in school three years when I took him. So that made his fourth year. He had not learned a single thing. He just repeated whatever the teacher had told him. And so I discovered that Leo couldn't see. No wonder he couldn't read any print. So I would rewrite his story from his book and make the letters tall, and he could read it. So I took some cards to show his parents. I said, "If you get him glasses, we'll be greatly blessed, because he can learn to read." And Leo was a cute little fellow. He would get upset with somebody, so he would go to the pencil sharpener (laughs) crank the phone, "Sam, come and get me. I'm coming home." (laughs) He'd sit back down. A little bit [later], he'd forget that he had telephoned, and be happy.

25 Corrigan: Did you come across that a lot, where you were the one that had to notice whether a kid needed glasses, or—

Zumwalt: Yes.

30 Corrigan: You kind of had to be on lookout for that, because that may be the only place, it's possible that some kids didn't have books at home, or—

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

35 Corrigan: But that he was capable of learning. He just couldn't see.

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

40 Corrigan: Okay. And you said you pointed with your fingers, you had to write it about two inches big—

Zumwalt: Yes.

45 Corrigan: —for him to be able to read. But then he could. So he did learn.

Zumwalt: Uh huh. Yes. Mm hmm. And I communicated with the lady in the nursing home where he went. And she said, “He still, he loves to read if they’re animal stories, and simple, simple ability.”

5 Corrigan: Now do you remember, we talked a little bit about this. Were you assigning, you said that kids liked to bring in the water, liked to do the coal, liked to do chores. So did you feel like you had to assign it to somebody? Or was it just that they wanted to do these things?

Zumwalt: They just wanted to do it.

10

Corrigan: Was there a fight to who was going to raise the flag? Or did you rotate them?

Zumwalt: Rotated.

15 Corrigan: So you tried to make everything fair.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

20 Corrigan: Did you actually have time yourself to eat lunch? (Zumwalt laughs) Or were you always busy? I was just curious. Did you actually have time to eat lunch?

Zumwalt: Yes. I ate when they ate.

25 Corrigan: Okay. Because it seemed like you were pretty busy. And once they got outside, too, you were working with other kids. I didn’t know if you actually got a chance to get some food in and take a break as well. And you did say you had support from parents. Do you think that the parents in that area, for the most part, that they valued education and thought it was important?

30 Zumwalt: Yes. Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Now how long did you work at that school?

35 Zumwalt: I taught at Duncan six years. Then we consolidated and I taught at Millersburg, which brought in those same children. But we of course brought in more children from other districts.

Corrigan: So Duncan closed then while you were there.

40 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: You combined with Millersburg.

Zumwalt: Yes.

45

Corrigan: Which about how far away was that?

[End Track 9. Begin Track 10.]

Zumwalt: Millersburg was, I want to say, about three miles.

5

Corrigan: So you combined schools. Why did Duncan have to close? Was there just not enough kids or money?

Zumwalt: I think they just decided that they needed to consolidate. Other small schools were struggling. So if we put them together, then we had enough students to really do something.

10

Corrigan: And how long did you work at Millersburg?

Zumwalt: Six years.

15

Corrigan: So six years at both.

Zumwalt: Yes.

20

Corrigan: And that was not a one-room schoolhouse, but it was a two-room?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Now could you describe that to me? Was it really two rooms? Or was it just a partition?

25

Zumwalt: It was a new, they built a new brick building.

Corrigan: So it was brick?

30

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: And I had, we had two classrooms. I had the room on the north, with north windows. The other teacher had the other end. And we had a hallway. And there was an office with nobody in it. (laughs) And then we had two restrooms. And then we had restrooms downstairs, too.

35

Corrigan: So you had indoor plumbing, then, at that time.

40

Zumwalt: Yes. And we had the most marvelous cook that came and prepared a meal.

Corrigan: So no more bringing the lunches. You actually had—

45

Zumwalt: That's right. We didn't have to bring our lunch. And she baked delicious hot rolls. But if you wanted a second one, you had to have a clean plate. In other words, you had to show me you had eaten all your food before you could have a second roll. So one mother said, "You just don't know how many mashed potatoes I took out of his pockets." (laughs)

5

Corrigan: Just so he could get another roll.

Zumwalt: He had to hide his food, so he put it in his pocket.

10 Corrigan: Now was there a kitchen in the school, then?

Zumwalt: Yes.

15 Corrigan: And it was brick, too. So this was fairly new when you—or was it new when you moved?

Zumwalt: It was new. Uh huh. I was the first teacher in that room.

20 Corrigan: Was this the '50s or '60s, 19—

Zumwalt: Hmm, gee. I'm not good with dates. Go from '49, go six years. That was Duncan. And then I had six more years in Millersburg.

25 Corrigan: So 1955, '56, through about '60. Okay.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

30 Corrigan: So you went from having outhouses and everything, to indoor plumbing, to, you had water then inside?

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

Corrigan: Did you have a water fountain, then?

35 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And then was there another woman teacher there?

40 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Now how did you divide up the students? Was it still—

45 Zumwalt: I took the first four grades and she took the upper grades. We usually had about 30 apiece.

Corrigan: Oh, you had 30 kids apiece?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: How big was the school, then? Roughly.

5

Zumwalt: Oh, I'm not good with measurements. But my room was very adequate for that number of students.

10 Corrigan: Okay, so it wasn't—like 30 kids today in a classroom can be crowded. But you didn't feel it was crowded?

Zumwalt: No, no, we weren't crowded.

Corrigan: Okay.

15

Zumwalt: They had built a nice big room. And on one end, we had bookcases. And you could walk between, you know. Here was a row of bookcases and an alleyway and a row of bookcases. So we had a good supply. Because when you put four schools together—

20 Corrigan: So what other schools came? You had Duncan and Millersburg itself combined.

Zumwalt: Truitt, and I don't remember the other name of the other school.

Corrigan: Okay. So you had about 60 kids at that time.

25

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Did you and the other teacher, did you share recess duty or did you share lunch duty? Or did you both just keep track of your own kids?

30

Zumwalt: We both pretty well kept, we ate with them. I sat at the head of the table.

Corrigan: Was there a lunch room then?

35

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Okay, so you didn't have to eat in the classroom.

Zumwalt: That's right.

40

Corrigan: So this is a fairly decent-sized school, then.

Zumwalt: Oh, yes. And we had the most marvelous cook.

45

Corrigan: And do you remember her name at all?

Zumwalt: Eula Baumgartner.

Corrigan: Eula Baumgartner. Okay. And did the, did kids have to pay for their lunch? Or was this part of the school?

5

Zumwalt: Hmm. I don't remember. Must have, I don't remember them paying.

Corrigan: Okay. So you said she made wonderful rolls. Do you remember anything else that you really enjoyed?

10

Zumwalt: It was all good, but the rolls—

[End Track 10. Begin Track 11.]

15

Zumwalt: were special.

Corrigan: Especially good.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

20

Corrigan: So you had a cook, you had the two teachers, you had an office, but you had no principal, superintendent.

Zumwalt: The upper grade teacher was supposed to be the principal.

25

Corrigan: Okay. Did you have a piano again, or no?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

30

Corrigan: Oh, you did. Okay. So you continued the things you had done before, art and music?

Zumwalt: Yes. We had, one fall Fulton organized an art show and asked the country schools to send in entries. And so all of my children entered something. And we, the newspaper published that Duncan School almost took all the awards. And so we got good publicity. (laughs)

35

Corrigan: Now speaking of art, you said that you enjoyed, when you were younger. But what did you do? Was it drawing? Was it painting, was it, what were your interests that you brought into the school? Was it craft projects? Did you just, did you just enjoy art?

40

Zumwalt: I just enjoyed art. One year we made string puppets and had a puppet play at the end of school, and had our puppets stage. And many people in the community had never seen a puppet. And so when we drew the curtain and a puppet walked across, there was [gasps] in the audience. (laughs) Because they'd never seen anything like that.

45

Corrigan: Was that at Duncan or Millersburg?

Zumwalt: Duncan.

5 Corrigan: Duncan.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm. I think Loucile made a chicken.

10 Corrigan: I vaguely remember her talking about a puppet show. And I believe she said the students helped write the play or program for the puppets.

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

15 Corrigan: Now where had you seen a puppet show? Or how did you know about this to do this?

Zumwalt: When I was in Hickman, I took an art class and we made puppets. So that was by experience of how to make a puppet.

20 Corrigan: But some people had never seen this before.

Zumwalt: That's right.

25 Corrigan: And did you have, did you create a little stage?

Zumwalt: Yes. Mm hmm.

Corrigan: And all the kids were underneath there with their hands?

30 Zumwalt: Uh huh. Their hands didn't show because we made like for a stage. So therefore, the curtain came down. So you did not see their hands.

Corrigan: So they were kind of like behind a half box or something.

35 Zumwalt: Yes. Uh huh. Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Did you, after, or all throughout your career, did you always do art and music with students?

40 Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: So you still had the first through the fourth graders and you said you took the first four classes. Did you continue reading? Was that still your favorite subject?

45 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you get to, now with only having the four grades, did you feel like you got to teach them more, then, since you were working with four grades? Although you had more students.

5 Zumwalt: I had more students and I felt like I had less time than when I taught at Duncan.

Corrigan: Really?

Zumwalt: Because of the number of students.

10

Corrigan: Yeah, because you said you only had between nine and fourteen before. So if you had 30—

Zumwalt: Mm hmm. Yes.

15

Corrigan: So you actually had fewer grades, less time. Now Loucile, obviously, you keep in contact with her. But she told me that it seems like you kept in contact with a lot of your students.

20

Zumwalt: Yes. I still hear from quite a few of them.

Corrigan: Do a lot of them still live around here?

Zumwalt: Quite a few, there are several around Millersburg that I had in school.

25

Corrigan: Are these kids from both Duncan and Millersburg?

Zumwalt: Yes. And if I don't hear from them, I hear from their mother. Particularly at Christmastime. They'll write me a Christmas letter.

30

Corrigan: So you still get cards and everything?

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

35

Corrigan: Okay. Well and I believe Loucile said you email her. Is that correct?

Zumwalt: Yes.

40

Corrigan: Okay. So a different form of communication from all your card making back in the day, or other art projects and that?

Zumwalt: (laughs) Yes.

45

Corrigan: Now, how would you compare the education that children receive in a one-room school compared to a larger school? What observations—how would you compare those? Do you think they're comparable?

Zumwalt: Well—

[End Track 11. Begin Track 12.]

5

Zumwalt: It's like comparing apples and oranges, I guess. It's different.

10 Corrigan: Do you feel it was a quality education? For example, you know, you've got kids attending a one-room schoolhouse, all combined. You go into town, if you go into Columbia and that, they're going to be in individual classes. Do you think the kids are receiving just as good as an education?

Zumwalt: Yes, I think they were.

15 Corrigan: Okay. You don't think they were, they weren't missing out on anything or not getting the attention if they would have each had one teacher per grade. You think, with that small of kids, you were able to work with each one of them?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

20

Corrigan: So you don't think the town kids had an advantage or anything over these kids.

Zumwalt: No. (laughs)

25 Corrigan: Now what influence, if any, did attending and teaching at a one-room schoolhouse have on you? How do you think it affected you? How do you think, did it give you a different perspective as a teacher than when you did go to a larger school?

Zumwalt: I'm not sure how to answer.

30

Corrigan: Because when you went to Centralia, that was a bigger school, correct? And you were just teaching reading?

Zumwalt: I was just teaching first grade.

35

40 Corrigan: I'm sorry. You were just teaching first grade. Did you miss seeing the kids, teaching them from first through eighth grade? Because you would have had them all for those years. How was that? Because that's a big difference, teaching first grade kids every year, versus teaching first through eighth grade every year. How would you compare those two?

Zumwalt: Well, it's quite different. But—[pause]

45 Corrigan: Well, let me ask you this. If, when you worked in Centralia, you would have worked with teachers that only ever taught one grade. Did you think it was easier to just teach that one grade?

Zumwalt: Yes, it was. Even though I had 30 in one grade.

5 Corrigan: Which did you enjoy more? Did you enjoy working in the one-room schoolhouse?
Or did you enjoy teaching in a larger school?

10 Zumwalt: Well, there was something special about the first school that I taught. But I
enjoyed all my years of teaching. And I did become, as I told you, I did become reading
supervisor at Centralia. And then I just taught the little children that needed special help. And
sometimes in schools those that get special help will kind of be looked down upon. But it
never happened at Centralia. They were so delighted to come to my class that there was no
stigma on going out for special help.

15 Corrigan: So they didn't get that maybe stigma associated with special education or—

Zumwalt: That's right.

20 Corrigan: Now we didn't, we talked about the one-room schoolhouse, the two-room
schoolhouse. Do you want to talk a little bit, I mean, I know that's our focus, but do you want
to talk a little bit about Centralia, its size, the same kinds of things? Were there an active
school board, active parents and adequate funding?

25 Zumwalt: Well, at Centralia, I did not, I only saw the school board at teachers' meetings.
We'd meet once a month and sometimes I would, they would ask me to speak and talk about
what was going on in the classroom.

Corrigan: Was it a big school?

30 Zumwalt: We had 30 students for each year for eight grades. The first four grades were in
one building, and the other four grades were over on Jefferson Street at what they called the
middle school.

Corrigan: So there would have been three schools in Centralia, then.

35 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: You would have had, basically, a grade school, middle school and a high school.

40 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: You always taught in the grade school.

Zumwalt: Yes.

45 Corrigan: And you said, I believe you said you taught there 18 years.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: And then did you retire from Centralia?

5 Zumwalt: Yes, I did.

Corrigan: Okay. And roughly, how long have you been retired?

Zumwalt: I retired in '82.

10

Corrigan: '82, okay.

[End Track 12. Begin Track 13.]

15 Corrigan: That's a long time to still be in contact with a lot of your students.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Even from Duncan back in the '50s.

20

Zumwalt: Uh huh. Yes.

Corrigan: Do you enjoy hearing from them?

25 Zumwalt: Oh, yes. Yes. And they still call me Miss Joy. (laughs)

Corrigan: Loucile mentioned that. Why was that? Why did you not have them call you Starr or Zumwalt?

30 Zumwalt: Well, when I began to teach at Duncan, one of the mothers said, "Now most of the children know you, and they know you as Joy." Because I lived in the neighborhood. So she said, "I think we should call you Miss Joy, because they already know you." So that's what we did.

35 Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: But then when I began to teach, when we formed the Millersburg school and I had the first four grades and Mrs. Rummins [sp?] had the upper grades, she really didn't like it that they called me Miss Joy and they called her Mrs. Rummins. She thought they should call me Mrs. Zumwalt. They were maybe a little too fond of me. (laughs) So I told them that Mrs. Rummins would like for me to be known as Mrs. Zumwalt. But it didn't make any difference. I was still Miss Joy.

40
45 Corrigan: Okay. The reason I had asked is I wondered if it was hard to pronounce your last name with a "Z." But it was because, it was just that's how people knew you as Joy.

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And then what about at Centralia? Were you still Miss Joy?

5 Zumwalt: No. There you had to be called Mrs. So and So, or Miss So and So.

Corrigan: I'd heard of that before, teachers using their first name, especially for younger names. I know for example I had a teacher whose last name started with a "W." It was very difficult for some children to say. And so I wondered if that was, a "W" is harder to say for a child, than, say, a "Z." But that's why I had asked. I wondered about that. But I remember Loucile referring to you as Miss Joy. And I believe she still referred to you—

10

Zumwalt: Yes. (laughs)

15 Corrigan: Today she still refers to you as Miss Joy.

Zumwalt: Yeah. That's the way my email comes from my students.

Corrigan: Oh, is that what, the address you as Miss Joy still?

20

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Okay. Now I'm sure you have lots of stories from the one-room schoolhouses. And you've told me a couple about some students, a couple of things. But I wondered if, what else sticks out in your mind, or if anything. Any other stories that stick out in your mind that you're really fond of or that you remember well?

25

Zumwalt: They used to like to play baseball. So I was to be the umpire. (laughs) And umpires can get disliked at times. (laughs) You make a call and they don't agree with it, they will definitely tell you. (laughs)

30

Corrigan: Did you know much about baseball?

Zumwalt: Basic. I didn't think I did too bad a job umpiring. (laughs)

35

Corrigan: And did you, and did the kids play, young to old? They all played together?

Zumwalt: They all played, uh huh.

40 Corrigan: So you had to kind of be the, not bad guy, but decider of strikes and fouls?

Zumwalt: Yes.

45 Corrigan: Anything else that you remember about that? Did you, do you have all fond memories of the schools?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

5 Corrigan: Now, I'll ask you a little bit, so you've been retired since the '80s. We mentioned your husband's name, Cecil. Do you want to mention how many children you have, and their names?

Zumwalt: Phyllis and David and Daniel.

10 Corrigan: So you have a girl and two boys.

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

Corrigan: And what do they do or where are they located? Do you see them often?

15 Zumwalt: Yes. Phyllis lives in Columbia, in [the] Parkade area. And she's artistic, which she inherited from me. And David, that you met, lives here on the farm. The farm is set up in four 80s. He's on the first 80, Daniel is on the second 80, I'm on the third 80, and the fourth 80 lies down here, and we've sold some lots off. Were you saw the houses.

20 Corrigan: Oh, where the houses were?

Zumwalt: Uh huh. But I own the land behind them.

25 Corrigan: Now is that what your husband did? Was he a farmer?

Zumwalt: Yes.

30 Corrigan: And you farmed right here? How long have you been right here where we're at on Richland?

Zumwalt: I've been here—

[End Track 13. Begin Track 14.]

35 Zumwalt: —for over 50 years now.

Corrigan: Okay.

40 Zumwalt: I'm the oldest of the area. (laughs)

Corrigan: So you've been here 50 years. And what kind of farm did you have? What kind of crops did you have here? And did you have livestock ever?

45 Zumwalt: Yes. Yes. Cecil raised cattle and he raised hogs. And a cute story with the pigs, little pigs love to roam. And we would put rings in their noses to try to keep them rooting. But they would root under the fence. And we had a neighbor lady, Mrs. Umphries, really did

not like any livestock. She planted a tulip bed and our pigs would root under the fence and go straight to her tulip bed. (laughs) And so she would write a letter to Cecil. "I know this is not very neighborly, but your pigs have eaten my tulip bulbs and I ask that you replace them. So please send me \$34." So Cecil would send her \$34 and she would replant. And Cecil would
5 ring the pigs again, put a little ring in their nose. (laughs) When you say a ring, it was, have you seen the rings? It's a triangular shape.

Corrigan: Okay.

10 Zumwalt: But it's called ringing. (laughs)

Corrigan: That's to keep them from rooting?

Zumwalt: Yes. Their noses are sore for a little while.

15 Corrigan: So you said, what, four 80s?

Zumwalt: Yes.

20 Corrigan: So he farmed all of that there, or all of this here?

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

25 Corrigan: Okay. And then I see on your coffee table, it looks like you have several grandchildren. And it looks like there's a lot of pictures there.

Zumwalt: Yes.

30 Corrigan: Now what kinds of things have you been doing in your retirement? What kinds of things do you like to do? How do you spend your time?

Zumwalt: Well, I of course used to do a lot of cooking. But since I'm the only one here, I don't do much cooking anymore. And I do get Meals on Wheels. So I do my usual cleaning and my laundry and everything that needs to be done.

35 Corrigan: Now I see a lot of books. Do you read a lot?

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

40 Corrigan: What kinds of things do you like to read now?

Zumwalt: Oh, I'll read, I love Corrie ten Boom. Are you familiar with Corrie ten Boom?

45 Corrigan: No.

Zumwalt: She was a Dutch lady that lived her last few years in the United States. And *In My Father's House*, that's one of Corrie ten Boom's books. And once the book company learns that you like books, they just, they send me (laughs) stacks of books.

5 Corrigan: So have you always been an avid reader?

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And are those fiction books?

10

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Okay. I wasn't sure.

15 Zumwalt: Now *In My Father's House* is not fiction. It's a true story of her life. But you see some of my grandchildren there.

Corrigan: Yeah, that's what I saw. I saw there's a lot of pictures around here. So I'm sure they all keep you busy. And it looks like you collect dolls.

20

Zumwalt: Yes, yes. I've got a lot of dolls in the sewing room.

Corrigan: Now that's something I forgot to ask you about. Loucile was telling me about a quilt, or, you're going to have to fill me in a little. Was it each grade or class or each, I'm not quite sure, but she remembers working on quilts at the school.

25

Zumwalt: Yes. I asked the mothers and the children, I said, "Work together and make me a quilt block." And I sent them the pattern to follow. But even though you send a pattern, you get various sizes coming back to you. (laughs) I don't know. But anyway, I got them all kind of uniform in size and I'll show you that quilt when we get up.

30

Corrigan: Okay. 'Cause she mentioned, and she couldn't, she just remembers making a quilt. And she thought everybody helped out. And, but it was by family, each family made a block? And then did you sew them all together then?

35

Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: And that was Duncan School that did that.

40 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: You mentioned a while back that you were going to possibly go into home ec. Did you teach things in school like that? Like sewing? Or was that just a project on the side that you did?

45

Zumwalt: That was just a project on the side. I love to sew.

Corrigan: You do. Or you did.

Zumwalt: Uh huh.

5

Corrigan: Okay.

Zumwalt: Yeah. And when Phyllis was little—

10 **[End Track 14. Begin Track 15.]**

Zumwalt: —I made all of her clothing. She didn't have anything that I hadn't made.

Corrigan: This is your daughter.

15

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Okay. So you made everything. You sewed clothes and—

20

Zumwalt: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Were you a, was that the only quilt you made? Or were you a quilter?

Zumwalt: I would piece the quilt and somebody else would quilt it.

25

Corrigan: Okay. But that was a memory that she had was making that quilt and doing that. And I forgot to ask you that earlier. But when you mentioned sewing, that—

Zumwalt: Triggered.

30

Corrigan: —or that reminded me to ask you that. So. Well, I think we've covered all my questions. But is there anything else you wanted to tell me about Duncan School or Millersburg? We've got time.

35

Zumwalt: When you have little children, they'll talk to you about anything. And one day, Eddie went to the bathroom. And when he came back, he said, "Miss Joy," and he reached down and he took out a worm, probably about that long—

Corrigan: About a foot long. Out of his pocket?

40

Zumwalt: (laughs) Out of his pocket. And I said, "Oh, Eddie, that's a stomach worm." I said, "Would you put it in a paper towel and fold it up and show your mother? She'll know what medication to get, because you've got stomach worms." (laughs) And so he went and got a paper towel, folded it up, put it in his pocket, took it home to show his mother. (laughs) So they show you everything.

45

Corrigan: So you also had to act as a nurse, too?

Zumwalt: Yes. Yes.

5 Corrigan: Well, and yeah, and you said there was nobody else was there. So you would have been everything. You would have been teacher, principal, cook, occasionally, with your beans and potatoes, and nurse.

Zumwalt: Mm hmm. You were chief of everything. (laughs)

10

Corrigan: That's funny. It was quite a task, though. Now a lot of, or it seems like a lot of one-room schoolhouse teachers were single, and then they stopped when they were married. Now you started when you were married.

15 Zumwalt: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you find that to be, was that the rarity? Did many, did you know other one-room schoolhouse teachers? Did they have college degrees?

20 Zumwalt: They either had a college degree or they were working toward a degree. And at that time, you took an exam. You had to go into the superintendent's office, sit down and take an exam. And if you passed it with a certain score, then you could teach as you were getting your degree.

25 Corrigan: Okay. I think that's all the questions I have.

Zumwalt: Okay. Well, let me show you the quilt.

30 Corrigan: Hold on one second. We'll shut the recorder off first and then we'll go look at that quilt. And I remember Loucile saying that she thought you still had it, or thought you would have it.

Zumwalt: Yes.

35 Corrigan: But I appreciate you sharing your story with me. Loucile will be very pleased that I came and got your story. And it will really be a nice addition. I think I told you that all the interviews we've done so far are people that attended one-room schoolhouses and not taught in them. So I think this will be a nice addition to our collection, and we thank you for sharing that with us.

40

Zumwalt: Oh, you're most welcome.

[End Interview.]

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