

ARDINY L. WILLIAMS

Interview 116a

November 15, 1987, at home of Ardiny Lee Williams in Diboll, Texas

Cheryl Bell, Interviewer

Retyped by Courtney Lawrence

ABSTRACT: In this short interview with her granddaughter Cheryl Bell, Ardiny Lee Williams recalls her school days in the two-room schoolhouse with two teachers.

Cheryl Bell (hereafter CB): I am Cheryl Bell, a ninth grade student at Diboll High School – I'm interviewing Mrs. Ardiny Lee Williams, my grandmother at her home in Diboll, Texas. Today is November 15, 1987. About how far was the school from your home?

Ardiny Lee Williams (hereafter AW): Not very far because we used to walk there.

CB: Describe your school.

AW: It was a two-room building, large two-room building.

CB: Did your aunt purchase your books?

AW: Yes, we purchased them, sometimes they were in good condition and sometimes they weren't.

CB: What was your aunt doing about your education, how did she feel about this?

AW: She wanted me to have an education and I never missed one day out of school, unless I was sick.

CB: How long was the school year?

AW: Nine months.

CB: How many teachers did you have and were they strict or liberal?

AW: They were strict but they were very nice.

CB: How many teachers did you have?

AW: Only two, it was a lady and the principal.

CB: What subjects were you taught and which were your favorite?

AW: English, arithmetic, geography and history. My favorite was arithmetic. I don't know, I just enjoyed arithmetic, fractions I guess.

CB: At what grade level did your school start at?

AW: The first grade when I was about six years old, you had to be six years old at that time.

CB: What grade level did your school end?

AW: Ninth grade.

CB: How old were you when you started in school?

AW: I was six years old and I left when I was fifteen; I graduated when I was fifteen.

CB: Did you graduate top of your class?

AW: I was the second.

CB: How many children were in your first school?

AW: It started out with fourteen but only three of us finished.

CB: Who were the three?

AW: Annie May Mark, Fred Lewis and I

CB: What time of day did school start?

AW: At nine o'clock.

CB: What time did it end?

AW: At three o'clock.

CB: Who was your best friend?

AW: Esther and Marv.

CB: Describe them.

AW: One was my classmate and one was an older girl that I adored.

CB: Did your teacher reward good conduct and grades?

AW: Yes, she did. They did in a way. They would give talks to encourage us to go on, there weren't many rewards given.

CB: What types of report cards did you have?

AW: I always had good report cards.

CB: Did you say prayers?

AW: We had prayer in school and on Friday we had assembly.

END OF INTERVIEW