

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
ELLA JOLLY

17 AUGUST 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.063

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
ELLA JOLLY**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.063

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith collection designated as QMS.1995.63. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mrs. Ella Jolly. Today is Thursday August 17, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of Mrs. Jolly at 1606 North Highland Street in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview, along with the transcripts of this interview, will become part of the Quintin Miller Smith Collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is that alright with you Mrs. Jolly?

JOLLY: Yes.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

JOLLY: Ella Katherine Tittsworth.

FORSYTHE: What is your birth date and place?

JOLLY: I was born September 18, 1931 in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: What was your father's name and occupation?

JOLLY: My father was John B. Tittsworth and he was a mechanic.

FORSYTHE: What was your mother's name and occupation?

JOLLY: She was Ella Katherine, just like me. She was a housewife. Her maiden name was Jenkins.

FORSYTHE: Do you have siblings?

JOLLY: I am from a family of ten, six girls and four boys. Starting with the oldest, their names are Iona, John, Ruth, Lucille, Elizabeth, Anne, Ralph, George, and Curtis. I was the next to the youngest child.

FORSYTHE: Did any of them go to MTSU?

JOLLY: Yes. Seven of us went to MTSU. John, Curtis, and George did not attend MTSU. My sister who is moving to Murfreesboro,?????, was the first of us to attend

MTSU. It was know as the State Teacher's College then, and she graduated in 1934.

FORSYTHE: What is your husband's name and occupation?

JOLLY: John Frank Jolly. He is a retired teacher and coach. He taught at Oakland High School.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any children?

JOLLY: We have two children, a daughter Susie and a son John.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose to attend MTSU?

JOLLY: I had two sisters who went there before I did. I just became a family tradition for all of us to go to MTSU.

FORSYTHE: What years did you attend MTSU?

JOLLY: I began in the fall of 1949 and went until the Spring of 1953. We were on quarters, instead of semesters then. I dropped out a couple of quarters and worked a while. I the fall of 1953 I began teaching, even though I had not graduated. At that time you could get a temporary teaching certificate, based on two years of you college work. They do not do that anymore. A job came open in my hometown of Shelbyville. The superintendent of schools asked me if I would be interested it the position. I really was not interested, but my father kind of pushed me into it. I taught second grade and finished my degree during the summers. I finally finished my degree in 1956.

FORSYTHE: What was your major?

JOLLY: Elementary education. I started out as a music major, but realized right away that I did not want to major in music and teach it. I switched majors to elementary education, because I had always liked to be around children. I just decided that I wanted to teach young children.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have as an MTSU Student?

JOLLY: I remember it as a fairly small university, one which you knew everybody. You knew all of the faculty members, too. Most of our classes only met in three different buildings. Most of the classes were in [Kirksey] Old Main. The president's office was there, everything was in Old Main. Our physical education classes met in an old gym. [The business department is there now.] While I was on campus they built, what was the new gym then, not the Murphy Center, but the gym that was on corner of Faulkinberry Drive and Tennessee Boulevard. [This building is now called the Alumni Memorial Gym.] The only other building

where classes met was the Science building. Biology, chemistry, and physics classes met there. Most of my classes were in OldMain. I lived in the Rutledge Hall dormitory, so I never had far to walk to class. While I was there, they started on a building program. The student union and a girls dorm was built while I was there. There were just two female dormitories, Rutledge hall and Lyon Hall. The only men's dormitory was Jones Hall. It was a rather small campus. The end of the campus was the library, where Peck Hall is now. Going that direction, there was only trees. It was small and you got to know everyone. In the fall of 1949, we still had a lot of veterans, who had come back from the war. "Vet Village" was there. We had a lot of vets with young families, who were in college. One of my big memories was the blizzard of 1950 or 51. It just knocked out everything. They had to cancel all of the classes, because they could not get coal to operate the steam plant which operated the heat to all the buildings. No one could get home, we were all stuck on campus. We stayed and had fun in snow ball fights and making snowmen. The only things that were open were our dorms and the cafeteria. That was it. I was a member of the band, and have real fond memories of that. The band was small, but we went to all of the away ball games on a bus. Those were enjoyable days. I can remember the hot days, like we are having right now, of band practice out on the field. Mr. Neil Wright was our band director. The stadium at that time, was not nearly as large as it is now. He really put us through our drills and paces. He would not give up until we got it right. I was a member of both the marching band and the symphonic band. I was also a member of the chorus. Most of my friends were in the music department, because I was a member of those organizations. We traveled a good bit with the chorus and put on performances. I remember things like that. As I said, you knew every professor there, because the place was quite small. I can not even guess the enrollment, but it was small. I remember registration. It was frightening the first time I had to go through it. Dr. Bob Womack, who is still at MTSU, I believe was just starting back to get his masters degree, after being in the army. I knew him from Shelbyville, because he had taught me in high school. He helped guide me through the process of registering. In those days, you had a sheet of paper and you figured the number of hours that you were going to take. All the professors sat out in the hallway of Old Main. You would take your paper by their desk, and if they had room for you, they would put you down as a member of their class, and sign their name. That was the way you registered in those days. You went down to the basement to pay your money. It was a very simple process, but for someone who had never been through it before it was rather frightening. That was before computerized registration. I had a chance, years later, to go back to MTSU, and take some extra course. That was rather a change. Other memories I have of MTSU...My favorite season on campus was Spring. We had been shut up all winter. The whole campus came alive in Spring. Everyone got spring fever and wanted to go sun themselves and rest under the big shade trees. I think a lot of us did cut classes. It was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed my first few years on campus.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about your student teaching.

JOLLY: When I registered to major as an elementary education major, you were really supposed to teach both levels of lower and upper primary grades, in order to get your teaching degree. I did nine at the upper level. I think Miss Snell taught seventh or eighth grade, and I was assigned to her. I also had a partner, another girl who was also student teaching. We went two hours every morning to the campus training school to work in the class room with Miss Snell. We did that for a whole quarter, or maybe part of a quarter. She would assign us tasks to do, like a spelling lesson one day, or an English lesson the next. One day she just came in and said, "Well girls, I'm not going to be here tomorrow, so you going to have the class all day by yourselves." We were scared to death. We were just twenty year olds. Somehow we got through that. We never knew if she did that on purpose, or if she had to be off that day, but we had that whole class all day by ourselves. It was one of those, play it by ear things, because we did not have time to do a lot of planning. You had to do a whole week of student teaching, all day. I had just completed that in the Spring of 1953, which was my last year that I lived on campus, and that was when I got my job teaching in Shelbyville, Tennessee. I never did go back and do anymore student teaching. By the time I got my degree, my advisor said that I did not have to do the extra student teaching, since I had done two years of actual teaching. They waved that for me, and I received my degree in elementary education.

FORSYTHE: I went through the annuals, looking at the names of faculty, and I would like for you to tell me what you remember about each.

FORSYTHE: Robert Abernathy?

JOLLY: I never had him for a teacher, but it seems his presence was always felt. He was always in the hall, and could call every student by name. He was one of the friendliest people I ever knew. Everyone liked him. You could hear him from one end of the hallway to the other. You just knew that Robert Abernathy was out there in the hallway someplace. I do not think he had an enemy over there. Everyone loved him.

FORSYTHE: Dean Beasley?

JOLLY: He was a very nice person. He could always call me by name. I think it was mainly because I had three sisters attend MTSU before me, Iona, Lucille, and Ruth (1944). He called me in his office one day and said, " Oh, I see we have another Tittsworth girl coming to the university here." Naturally, you were compared to the ones who had been before you. Faculty would say, " Well I know you'll be as good as student as which I was not! He was a nice person.

FORSYTHE: Ed Baldwin?

JOLLY: He was my geography professor. He was a very different kind of teacher. He was in what we called "the turret," the very top floor of Old Main [Kirksey Old Main]. You had to climb three flights of stairs to get up there, and it was a little tiny room. He would not come in until the class bell rang. When he entered, he would throw his geography book down on the desk and say, "Are there any questions about today's lesson?" Everyone was scared of him. We would all sit there and look at each other. No one would raise a hand to ask a question. He would say, "Well, if there are no questions, then we will just discuss other things." He was more or less, that kind of teacher. It was really easy to fail his class because we never discuss the lesson. The lesson out of the book was never discussed. I think I really flunk his class, or made a "D" in it. I remember I had to take it over, it was a required course for my major. I think if you failed or had a "D," you had to take the class again.

FORSYTHE: Guy Battle?

JOLLY: I do not remember him.

FORSYTHE: Lane Boutwell?

JOLLY: He was a wonderful person. He taught speech and dramatics, and I suppose directed plays. I felt that just to hear him speak was special. No one else seemed to speak like he did. He always seemed so self-assured. I never had him for a class. I took speech during the summer, and I think his wife taught the class while he was on sabbatical leave.

FORSYTHE: Wilmoth Bowdoin?

JOLLY: They called him "Will." I never had him as a teacher either. He was from Alabama and was very Southern. Later, when I was teaching in the Murfreesboro City schools, I had the honor and privilege of working with his wife Bowdoin. Much has been written about her. She received an honor in Washington D.C., not long ago. She started the Class Room on Wheels, here. They were both wonderful people. He was very helpful to me. I think at one time, he was my advisor in my major. He seemed to always be available and was very helpful in guiding you through your classes.

FORSYTHE: Emily Calcott?

JOLLY: I never had her for a teacher. She taught English. The thing I remember about her is that she talked to herself a lot. You would see her wandering through the halls, looking at the ceiling or the floor, talking to herself.

FORSYTHE: Catherine Clark?

JOLLY: She was a librarian. I never had a lot of direct contact with her. I remember I had to take a children's literature class, but I did not take it under her. I can not remember who taught it. She was very helpful in the library and helped you find the books you needed. The library was very small at that time.

FORSYTHE: Robert Corlew?

JOLLY: I never did have him as a teacher. He had this booming wonderful voice. When he spoke it seems like thunder rolled. He was a well-liked professor.

FORSYTHE: Crawford Crowe?

JOLLY: I do not remember that name at all.

FORSYTHE: Firman Cunningham?

JOLLY: I do not remember him.

FORSYTHE: Ralph Dunham?

JOLLY: No, I do not remember that name.

FORSYTHE: Ambrose Easterly?

JOLLY: No. What year did you get these names from? I did not get my master's degree until 1972, but I did get it from MTSU.

FORSYTHE: Did you do a thesis?

JOLLY: I got my masters degree in reading education. I cannot remember the title. I remember doing a lot of research on it. It had to do with a variety of ways to teach reading.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember Dr. Golightly?

JOLLY: I remember hearing the name, but I never knew who that was.

FORSYTHE: Miss Mary Hall?

JOLLY: Miss Mary was really something. I had several classes with Miss Mary because she had taught elementary education in different places. I had several of my core elementary education classes with her. She was a very learned woman. She began every first day of classes for the course, by telling students her background. Her father was a country doctor and she had traveled with him as a child. You

spent your first day of class hearing about her background. She was a good professor and I learned a lot from her.

FORSYTHE: Miss Ollie Green?

JOLLY: She was the other geography teacher, besides Dr. Baldwin. She also taught chemistry. Students switched back and forth between the two. She was a hard teacher. I remember she did not like to be disputed over anything. One day in geography class, she made a few statements about Alaska. This boy raised his hand (she always seemed to like the boys better than the girls) and she called him and he said, "Miss Green, I'm going to have to dispute you over that because it is incorrect." They got into this verbal fight in the class. That really woke us up, usually the classes were very boring, but we all perked up after that. She said, "What do you mean it is not right? That is what the text book says." The boy replied, "Well, I was stationed there during the war [World War II] for three years and I know that is not right. Whoever wrote that book probably never set foot in Alaska." We were all wondering if he would pass the class or not. We were all taking bets for the rest of the course. That fellow ended up with an "A." That was really funny.

[End of Side A]

FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview with Mrs. Ella Jolly by Regina Forsythe on Thursday August 17, 1995. B.B. Gracy?

JOLLY: I had a class called "Landscape Gardening" under him. It was an elective, and I had always loved flowers, so one summer I took his class. He was so much fun in class. He knew the name of every living tree or plant on that MTSU campus. We always had such a beautiful campus. His class met somewhere over near what was the farm building then, which is now the livestock pavilion is, it was over in that direction. I just loved his class, he was so enthusiastic. He could talk about a flower and make it come alive for you. I just loved his class. He would get use outside on those hot hot summer days and we would walk all over campus until class time was up. You would identify all the trees, every shrub. The final was to do a landscaping project, using the house you lived in. You had to choose trees and shrubbery and how you would change the back and front yard. The other part of the final was to walk around the campus with him. We had these blank sheets of paper with lines and numbers and had to write the name of the plant or tree when he pointed to it. He was a lot of fun as a teacher. He was old at that time. We took our final as a class, but there was no way anyone could look at your test paper. He had you get in a big circle around the tree or shrub we were to name, and he would say, "All right, let's see if you remember the name of this one." I really learned a lot under him. That was a good way to teach us.

FORSYTHE: Joe Black Hayes?

JOLLY: I had him for first aide class. He was a coach at the time. I have had a chance to know him through the years, he is a friend of my husband. It seems like he has not changed at all, from the year that I had a class with him. He has just stayed the same kind of person.

FORSYTHE: Walter Herndon?

JOLLY: I do not remember him.

FORSYTHE: Charles Edwin Howard?

JOLLY: I do not remember him.

FORSYTHE: What about Philip Howard?

JOLLY: I think he was a music teacher. I never had him for a teacher. I think he came after 1953, because that was when the university really started growing and they hired a lot of teachers. He was nice and friendly. He was really tall and seemed out of place to be in music. I though he fit in some other field better. From the friends I had who were in the music department, I understand he was a very good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Clayton James?

JOLLY: We called him "Dean James," because he was dean of students. I can remember him having a deep interest in all the students. The university was quite small. If you were having problems in you classes, the professor would report it to Dean James. When he got word of it, he would call you into the office to inquire what kind of problems you were having, why, and how he could help. He was helpful to me, as a student.

FORSYTHE: Horace Jones?

JOLLY: That is who the field over there is named after, but I do not remember him.

FORSYTHE: Bill Mac Jones?

JOLLY: No.

FORSYTHE: Dean Keathley?

JOLLY: I had him for a class, but I cannot remember what that was. He was very soft-spoken, he never raised his voice. I remember his as a very nice person. He was not there when I began in 1949, but came during the time I was there between 1949-1953.

FORSYTHE: Charles Lewis?

JOLLY: I did not know him.

FORSYTHE: James Martin?

JOLLY: They called him "Skinny Martin." He and Bob Abernathy and Finis Poole, those three were always together. When you found one out in the hallway, the other two were not far behind. You could hear them laughing, cutting-up, and carrying-on all over the main hallway. I never had Martin as a teacher, but everyone would say you have to have Skinny Martin as a teacher. I never did get to have him as a teacher.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Sims?

JOLLY: I did have him for something. I remember the name.

FORSYTHE: Hilary Parker?

JOLLY: I never had him for a teacher. He was principal of the campus school for a while. When I was in the teaching methods classes, I would observe classes being taught at the school. He might have been principal then.

FORSYTHE: Kenneth Pace?

JOLLY: I knew him, but I never had him as a teacher. I taught later with his wife, Kay Pace, in the city schools here. He was in the music department, and I believe he took over directing the orchestra.

FORSYTHE: Wink Migdgett?

JOLLY: I had him for typing. He was a former coach. He was a very low key teacher. You just went in, did you work, and turned it in.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Q.M. Smith?

JOLLY: Everybody remembered his voice. He has a very difficult time speaking because he had been gassed during World War I. He was a very likable person. He always made himself known. In those days you had an assembly, twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings in the Old Main auditorium. He always presided and gave a speech of some kind. I do not remember what else we did at these assembly. He had difficulty speaking. His office was there in Old Main and he was a very visible president. He was another person that seemed to be able to call every student by name. If he saw you standing out in the hall and you passed by him, he would call your name. He knew who you were.

FORSYTHE: Did you know Mrs. Smith?

JOLLY: No, I did not. In later years, she was a teacher or librarian at the campus school. I never did get to know her.

FORSYTHE: Virginia Peck?

JOLLY: I did not know her. I had her husband, Richard, for an English class, but she never taught me.

FORSYTHE: Rubye Taylor Sanders?

JOLLY: She was in the music department. I took a class in learning to play the violin. I was the awfulest class I ever took, because all we did was sound like a bunch of screeching cats. She was highly devoted to music. She was a very small lady, short. She would get so disgusted with us because we could not get the notes to sound right.

FORSYTHE: E. May Saunders?

JOLLY: I think she had been there since 1911 and was still there when I was there. She was very devoted to music. She lived a block away from the university, on Tennessee. I think her house is now a fraternity house. When she died, she deeded it to the college. I had her for music appreciation class. I learned more about operas and classical music from her than any other person I took classes with.

FORSYTHE: Neil Wright?

JOLLY: He was a very likable person. I had him for band and chorus. I never did have him for an individual class of any kind. I did have Mrs. Wright, his wife, for a voice class. I really liked him. He could be just as stern as can be, but he could be a big cut-up, too. We all liked the Wrights.

FORSYTHE: Mary Scott?

JOLLY: I never did have her as a teacher. I think she taught instrumental music or voice. I did have her husband, John Scott, in Freshman English 101. I think he was just back from the service and was just starting his teaching career. I did not really get to know him much then. I got to know him later because I taught in the Rutherford county schools, and he was the supervisor of secondary education. He did not stay in college teaching very long. He might have left to get a higher degree. He became affiliated with secondary education.

FORSYTHE: Coach Murphey?

JOLLY: I loved that man to death. I did not know him much in college, but I knew who he was. He goes to church where I go now. He and his wife, Leona, are a well loved couple in this community.

FORSYTHE: Tommie Reynolds?

JOLLY: I never did have her. I think she taught math. We called her, "Miss Tommie," that was how she wanted to be addressed.

FORSYTHE: Roy Simpson?

JOLLY: I think I had an Algebra class with him. We had to go to the board everyday and work problems. That was a summer class.

FORSYTHE: Ellis Rucker?

JOLLY: I had him in basic biology class. He taught me in whatever class you had to dissect a frog in.

FORSYTHE: Frances Reil?

JOLLY: I believe I had him as a teacher in a class called, "golf and bowling." I either had him for that or tennis. He was one of the few that we called, "Yankees," who had infiltrated the university. Most everyone who taught at MTSU was from somewhere in the South. He and his wife were from the East, Boston, I believe. He was really a well liked teacher. A gentleman, if I ever saw one.

FORSYTHE: Doug Shields?

JOLLY: I do not remember him.

FORSYTHE: Norman Parks?

JOLLY: He taught history, but I never had him as a professor.

FORSYTHE: Dr. John Gerald Parchment?

JOLLY: I did have him in one of my basic biology. His wife taught me later in a business class. Her name was Elaine.

FORSYTHE: John Patten?

JOLLY: I never did have him for a teacher.

FORSYTHE: Eugene Sloan?

JOLLY: I had him for something like civics. We met in the basement of Old Main, in one of those corner rooms.

FORSYTHE: Bealer Smotherman?

JOLLY: I had him for a class teaching us to use audiovisual aids. I had him for two classes. I also had him for a class in school in administration. I remember him because it was a very small class. My husband to be was in that class. That was the first time I ever met my husband, but we did not marry for years later. He took us around to all the schools that were in the county. There were still a lot of little country schools in operation. That was before consolidation. We visited the schools, talked to the faculty, and if it was lunch time, we would stay for lunch. He would get us all dismissed from our other classes, for what was like a college field trip. We would spend the whole day visiting several schools.

FORSYTHE: John Wade?

JOLLY: No.

FORSYTHE: Ed Voorhies?

JOLLY: I had him for a professor. I still know him. He and his wife go to church where I go. He and his wife are very likable people. I had him for a shop teacher, I took shop as an elective. He was fairly new over there, at that time. I loved that class because I've always enjoyed working with my hands. We learned how to tool leather and work with brass. We all had some kind of a wood working project. I was not common for women to be in shop. I think there were three of us and the rest of the class was men. I was open to everyone, but I suppose not that many girls were interested in taking a class like that.

FORSYTHE: Roscoe Strickland?

JOLLY: I had him as a history professor. He taught Russian history. I never will forget his class. He was such a thorough teacher. I really liked his classes, except you had a hard time understanding him. He talked with his head bowed down, not having eye contact with the class. He sounded like he was mumbling most of the time. Still, It was a real interesting class because I knew nothing of Russian history.

FORSYTHE: Clifford Stark?

JOLLY: I know the name, but I never did have him for a teacher.

FORSYTHE: Charlotte Williams?

JOLLY: I had a class with her. The lecture hall was on the second floor of Old Main, then. It was like a mini-auditorium. Her classes were always really big, almost every seat in the class was filled up. She was a very brilliant and knowledgeable person. I had her for some kind of history class, it might have been U.S. government history. She really knew her stuff.

FORSYTHE: Virginia Muncie?

JOLLY: I never had class under her.

FORSYTHE: Helen Trivett?

JOLLY: No.

FORSYTHE: James Swann?

JOLLY: I had him in a summer class. He spoke in a very slow voice. He was just that kind of person. When he came into class it was like he entered in slow motion. The whole class felt like it was in slow motion. I had him for a summer class that had something to do with elementary education.

FORSYTHE: How did the campus school change from 1972-1991?

JOLLY: When I first started teaching over there Martha Hampton was the principal. At that time our role as a campus school teacher was to teach the students that we had and to allow university students to come in and observe us teach. That was all we did. Several years after that, Liz Whorley Bradley, became principal and our roles changed. Not only were we responsible for teaching the children in our class room, but we were responsible for teaching some college methods courses in the education program. I taught a methods course in reading. We were responsible for teaching our class room children and a college course, each semester. That is still the role of the campus school teachers. Along with that, we had to coordinate the college students coming into our class rooms to teach mini-lessons. That was supposed to help prepare them for actual student teaching. I retired from there in the spring of 1991.

FORSYTHE: Why did you start working at the training school?

JOLLY: It was really interesting, the way I got on there. My husband and I lived in Tullahoma at the time, I was working on my masters degree. I was commuting back and forth from Tullahoma. I had been teaching in Tullahoma and I decided to take a full year off to do my masters degree all at once. I did not want to stretch it out. The first day that I was in a class under Dr. Williams, he sent out a call. He said I have an SOS. here, we need someone who is a reading major who is interested in working in the campus school reading laboratory. This will pay your tuition, books, and \$20 a week or month, I can't remember. I asked him

about it later, and he took me over there and introduced me to the principal, Martha Hampton. she took me on up to the reading lab. I took the job which required me to take care of the reading laboratory. You had to order a lot of reading material, dealing with elementary education. I had to catalog them, check those materials in and out to teachers and students. I also tutored students who were having trouble in reading. I took that job over and had it for the school year of 1971-72. I got to know Martha Hampton really well. When I got my degree in August of 1972, we were still living in Tullahoma. Martha had an opening for a teaching position and wanted to know if I would be interested in it. I said I did not think I could, because we would have to sell our house, and my child was five years old and I was trying to get him enrolled in kindergarten. I did not take the job. Later, we did sell our house and move to Murfreesboro. Later, that year she began to call me to substitute teach. By that time my child was in kindergarten, and we had moved. When one of the teachers went on maternity leave in the spring of 1973, Martha asked me if I would like to take it over, and I did. That teacher decided not to come back, and I was hired full time. I was there until 1991.

FORSYTHE: Martha Hampton?

JOLLY: I really respected her as a principal. I had had only one other female principal in my teaching career and I was not fond of her. I respected Martha as a principal. She was a no nonsense principal and did not show favorites of any kind. She ran that school very well planned. If she told you her faculty meetings were going to last 20 minutes, they were going to last 20 minutes. Even though she was not married, she was probably one of the most understanding principals I have ever know when it came to teachers who had families. She knew that things would come up in emergencies and teachers might have to leave. She never questioned anything, her response was, "Go, your responsibility is to your family." You might try to argue that you needed to do something else, but she wouldn't let you and said, "You need to get home to that family, I'll take care of your class room." She really was understanding. I heard more teachers say that about her.