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### Interview with Mr. Leo Kuhn, One and Two-Room School teacher

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*Fort Hays State University*

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THIS AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. LEO KUHN CONDUCTED BY PATRICK SCOTT IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY OF EDUCATION, SUMMER, 1987. MR. KUHN WAS A TEACHER IN SEVERAL ONE AND TWO ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES IN NORTHERN ELLIS COUNTY.

SCOTT: "MR. KUHN, FIRST OF ALL, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GRANT ME THIS INTERVIEW. I'M SURE IT WILL BE VERY INTERESTING"

KUHN: "WELL, I JUST HOPE I CAN REMEMBER EVERYTHING."

SCOTT: "FIRST OFF, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION. WHERE WERE YOU BORN?"

KUHN: "I WAS BORN IN VICTORIA. THEN MY FOLKS MOVED TO EMMERAM."

SCOTT: "NOW WHERE IS EMMERAM?"

KUHN: "YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE EMMERAM IS? IT'S 6 MILES NORTH AND A MILE EAST OF VICTORIA."

SCOTT: "HOW MANY KIDS WERE IN YOUR FAMILY?"

KUHN: "THERE WERE 9 BOYS AND 8 GIRLS!"

SCOTT: "WHEW! THAT'S A BIG FAMILY! AND DID YOU GROW UP THERE IN EMMARAM? DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL THERE?"

KUHN: "OH, YES."

SCOTT: "WHAT WAS THE SCHOOL LIKE?"

KUHN: "IT WAS A TWO TEACHER SCHOOL."

SCOTT: "AND DID ALL YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS GO TO SCHOOL THERE?"

KUHN: "OH, YES BUT TWO BROTHERS DIED AS INFANTS THOUGH."

SCOTT: "I SEE. WHAT OTHER SCHOOLS DID YOU ATTEND?"

KUHN: "VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL."

SCOTT: "DID YOU GO ANYWHERE AFTER HIGHSCHOOL?"

KUHN: "I WENT TO WICHITA BUSINESS COLLEGE FOR TWO YEARS. A BUNCH OF US VICTORIA BOYS WENT THERE AFTER WE GRADUATED IN 1924."

SCOTT: "WHAT DID YOU STUDY THERE?"

KUHN: "JUST MAINLY SHORTHAND. I KINDA MEASURED IN SHORTHAND. I ALSO WORKED THERE IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE."

SCOTT: "WHEN DID YOU GET MARRIED?"

KUHN: "IN 1935."

SCOTT: "HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU GOT MARRIED?"

KUHN: "WELL, I WAS BORN IN 1905 SO I GUESS THAT MADE ME 30 YEARS OLD HUH? I WAS ALMOST AN OLD BACHELOR WHEN I GOT MARRIED BUT IT LASTED 51 YEARS. MY

WIFE PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR."

SCOTT:"I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT BUT I BET THEY WERE 51 HAPPY YEARS RIGHT?"

KUHN:"OH, YES."

SCOTT:HOW MANY KIDS DID YOU HAVE?"

KUHN:"WE HAD FOUR, THREE GIRLS AND ONE BOY. THE TWO LAST ONES WERE TWINS, BILLY AND MARLENE. THE OTHERS WERE NORMA JEAN AND DORLENE."

SCOTT:"NOW WHERE DID THEY GO TO SCHOOL?"

KUHN:"THEY WENT TO SCHOOL WHERE EVER I TAUGHT. IT JUST MADE IT SO MUCH EASIER."

SCOTT:"OK, LET'S GET INTO YOUR TEACHING. WHERE DID YOU FIRST START TEACHING AT?"

KUHN:"WAIT A MINUTE, I HAD THAT HERE SOMEWHERE. HERE IT IS. IN 1928, I STARTED TEACHING AT EMMERAM GRADE SCHOOL. THEN I WAS TRANSFERRED TO LOST CANYON SCHOOL. THEN IT WAS BACK TO EMMERAM. THEN BACK TO LOST CANYON. AFTER THAT I WENT TO BLUE HILL SCHOOL. MY NEXT PLACE I TAUGHT WAS PLEASANT RIDGE WHICH IS BY SEVERIN NORTH OF HAYS."

SCOTT:"NOW WHERE THESE SCHOOLS ALL ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES?"

KUHN:"NO, ONLY BLUE HILL WHICH IS EAST AND NORTH OF EMMARAM HAD ONE TEACHER. THE OTHERS HAD TWO."

SCOTT:"WHAT GRADES DID YOU TEACH AT BLUE HILL?"

KUHN:"ONE THROUGH EIGHT! AT THE OTHER SCHOOLS I TAUGHT THE UPPER GRADES ONLY."

SCOTT:"WHAT WAS THE GRAND TOTAL OF YEARS YOU TAUGHT?"

KUHN:"42!"

SCOTT:"42 YEARS. ISN'T THAT SOMETHING! WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU TEACH?"

KUHN:"ALL SUBJECTS. IN THE ONE TEACHER SCHOOLHOUSE THAT IS. AT THE OTHERS THEY WERE SPLIT. I ALSO TAUGHT AT WALKER. I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT."

SCOTT:"WHEN YOU SAY ALL SUBJECTS, EXACTLY WHAT WERE THEY?"

KUHN:"READING, WRITING, ARITHMETIC, SPELLING, SOCIAL STUDIES, CIVICS, AND CITIZENSHIP."

SCOTT:"WHAT WERE THE BUILDINGS LIKE AND WHAT WERE THEY MADE OF?"

KUHN:"THEY WERE GOOD. EMMERAM WAS A FRAME, BLUE HILL WAS BRICK, LOST CANYON WAS NATIVE ROCK AND WALKER AND PLEASANT RIDGE WERE BRICK ALSO."

SCOTT:"DID THE NATIVE STONE COME FROM AROUND HERE?"

KUHN:"I THINK IT DID."

SCOTT:"DO YOU KNOW WHO BUILT THESE SCHOOLS?"

KUHN: "NO, NOT REALLY."

SCOTT: "OK, LET'S GO THROUGH A TYPICAL DAY OF SCHOOL FOR YOU. WHAT TIME DID YOU GET UP?"

KUHN: "SIX O'CLOCK."

SCOTT: "DID YOU HAVE TO DO ANY CHORES BEFORE SCHOOL?"

KUHN: "OH DEFINITELY! WE WERE LIVING ON THE FARM OF COURSE AND WE'D HAVE TO GET THE COWS IN AND MILK THEM. WE HAD UP TO 14 COWS."

SCOTT: "WHAT TIME DID SCHOOL START?"

KUHN: "NINE O'CLOCK. NOW AT PLEASANT RIDGE WE STARTED A LITTLE EARLIER, RIGHT AFTER MASS."

SCOTT: "WERE THESE SCHOOLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS?"

KUHN: "ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE CHURCH WAS RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THE SCHOOL."

SCOTT: "HOW MANY FAMILIES WERE APART OF YOUR SCHOOL'S AREA?"

KUHN: "THERE WERE ABOUT ONLY FOUR OR FIVE FAMILIES IN THE AREA."

SCOTT: "WHAT WAS THE NUMBER OF KIDS, ON THE AVERAGE, IN ONE OF YOUR CLASSROOMS?"

KUHN: "ON THE AVERAGE I'D SAY THERE WERE ABOUT 15."

SCOTT: "ALL RIGHT, SO YOU'D GET TO SCHOOL AND START AT NINE O'CLOCK, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST SUBJECT YOU'D HAVE?"

KUHN: "READING."

SCOTT: "FOR ALL THE STUDENTS?"

KUHN: "YES, I'D GET THEM ALL STARTED ON THE SAME SUBJECT."

SCOTT: "DID YOU HAVE A REGULAR TEXTBOOK YOU TAUGHT OUT OF?"

KUHN: "OH, YEA IT WAS A BOB MERRILL BOOK."

SCOTT: "THEN WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE?"

KUHN: "THEN IT WAS ABOUT RECESS TIME."

SCOTT: "WHAT DID THE KIDS PLAY AT RECESS?"

KUHN: "THEY'D PLAY BALL."

SCOTT: "FOOTBALL?"

KUHN: "NO, IT WAS BASEBALL. THEY'D ALSO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK, TAG, POM POM PULL-AWAY."

SCOTT: "DID THEY HAVE ANY PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT?"

KUHN: "NO, JUST WHAT THEY BROUGHT FROM HOME."

SCOTT:"WHAT DISTRICTS WERE THESE SCHOOLS IN?"

KUHN:"DISTRICT 34, THAT WAS EMMERAM. LOST CANYON WAS 37, AND BLUE HILL WAS DISTRICT 35. PLEASANT RIDGE WAS 55 AND WALKER WAS IN DISTRICT 10."

SCOTT:"HOW FAR DID YOU LIVE FROM SCHOOL?"

KUHN:"AT EMMERAM, I LIVED 3/4 OF A MILE FROM SCHOOL. I WOULD WALK EVERYDAY."

SCOTT:ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET BACK TO YOUR TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY. AFTER RECESS, WHAT DID YOU HAVE?"

KUHN:WE WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE MATH."

SCOTT:"WHAT TYPE OF WORK WOULD YOU HAVE YOUR STUDENTS DO IN THERE?"

KUHN:"WELL WE HAD TEXTBOOKS AND ALSO I'D PUT THEM ON THE BOARD TO DO PROBLEMS."

SCOTT:"DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE IN THE MORNING?"

KUHN:"WE WOULD HAVE SPELLING USUALLY."

SCOTT:"THEN CAME LUNCH. WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR LUNCH?"

KUHN:"EAT! WHAT ELSE WOULD WE DO?"

SCOTT:"I MEAN DID YOU BRING YOUR OWN OR DID YOU HAVE HOT LUNCHES?"

KUHN:"AT WALKER, WE HAD A HOT LUNCH BUT IT WAS SKIMPY. THE OTHER SCHOOLS WE BROUGHT OUR OWN."

SCOTT:"IT'S NOW AFTER LUNCH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?"

KUHN:"WE'D HAVE CIVICS OR SOCIAL STUDIES. IT WAS SO CHANGABLE. WE WOULDN'T HAVE ALL THE SUBJECTS EVERYDAY. YOU COULDN'T GET THEM IN IN A ONE TEACHER SCHOOL."

SCOTT:"DID YOU ALSO HAVE RECESS IN THE AFTERNOON?"

KUHN:"OH YEA, USUALLY AT 3:30."

SCOTT:"WHAT TIME DID SCHOOL GET OUT?"

KUHN:"AT 4 O'CLOCK."

SCOTT:"WHAT WOULD YOU DO AFTER SCHOOL?"

KUHN:"THAT'S WHEN I GRADED PAPERS AND DID LESSON PLANS AND CLEANED THE ROOM."

SCOTT:"YOU HAD TO CLEAN YOUR OWN ROOM?"

KUHN:"OH YEA, WE WERE THE JANITOR TOO. THEN IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME AND MILK THE COWS AGAIN AND DO WHAT EVER ELSE WORK WAS NEEDED ON THE FARM. I TELL YOU, IT WAS A JOB."

SCOTT:"I'M SURE IT WAS. NOW, TELL ME ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENTS YOU GAVE."

WERE THEY VERY LONG?"

KUHN:"NO, THEY WEREN'T LONG. I HAD THEM DO ALOT IN WORKBOOKS BUT THEY HAD CHORES TO DO ALSO SO I UNDERSTOOD THAT."

SCOTT:"HOW WERE THE STUDENTS? DID THEY BEHAVE?"

KUHN:"THEY HAD TO! I NEVER REALLY HAD ANY DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS. THEY WERE GOOD KIDS WHO CAME FORM GOOD FAMILIES. THEY KNEW BETTER."

SCOTT:"WHAT TYPE OF PUNISHMENTS DID YOU USE? DID YOU EVER HIT ANYONE?"

KUHN:"OH NO, I NEVER HIT ANYONE. I USUALLY JUST MADE THEM STAY IN AT RECESS."

SCOTT:"DO YOU THINK THE PARENTS WOULD HAVE BACKED YOU IF YOU WOULD HAVE HIT A KID?"

KUHN:"OH I THINK SO. MOST OF THEM ANYWAY."

SCOTT:"DID YOUR STUDENTS HAVE ANY OTHER INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?"

KUHN:"WELL ON FRIDAYS WE WOULD GO TO NEIGHBORING SCHOOLS AND PLAY THEM IN BALL. THAT IS ABOUT IT, THE FARM WAS THE MAIN CONCERN AFTER SCHOOL."

SCOTT:"DO YOU REMEMBER BY ANY CHANCE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU GOT PAID YOUR FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING?"

KUHN:"PAT, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I GOT 40 DOLLARS A MONTH IN MY FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING. IN MY LAST YEAR, I GOT 450 DOLLARS A MONTH."

SCOTT:"CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY PARTICULAR FUNNY HAPPENINGS THAT OCCURRED IN YOUR CLASS?"

KUHN:"NO, NOT REALLY. I HAD GOOD KIDS THAT DIDN'T GOOF AROUND VERY MUCH. BLUE HILL WAS MY FAVORITE SCHOOL."

SCOTT:"NOW DID YOUR WIFE ALSO TEACH?"

KUHN:"SHE TAUGHT AT EMMERAM ALSO."

SCOTT:"IS THAT WHERE YOU MET HER?"

KUHN:"NO, NO. I MET HER IN HIGH SCHOOL."

SCOTT:"HOW DID YOU START YOUR SCHOOL DAY OUT?"

KUHN:"WELL WE WOULD SOMETIMES SING AND OF COURSE ALWAYS SAY THE FLAG SALUTE. I ALSO HAD A LITTLE PRAYER WE WOULD SAY DAILY."

SCOTT:"WHAT PRAYER WAS THAT?"

KUHN:"THE APOSTLE'S CREED AND OUR FATHER. THE SONG WE SANG ALL THE TIME WAS "GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

SCOTT:"WAS THE SCHOOLHOUSE USED FOR ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES EDUCATION?"

KUHN:"I REMEMBER FOR TWO YEARS WE HAD THE MUSIC FESTIVAL THERE. ALL THE DISTRICTS WOULD GET TOGETHER AND SING BUT OTHER THAN THAT IT WASN'T USED FOR MUCH."

SCOTT:"WHAT WAS THE USUAL AGE THAT A CHILD BEGAN SCHOOL?"

KUHN:"SIX YEARS WAS WHEN THEY STARTED FIRST GRADE. REMEMBER WE DIDN'T HAVE KINDERGARTEN."

SCOTT:"CAN YOU TELL ME HOW LONG THE SCHOOL YEAR LASTED?"

KUHN:"AT FIRST, WE WERE ONLY IN SCHOOL FOR SEVEN MONTHS SEPTEMBER TO MARCH, BUT THEN IT CHANGED TO EIGHT MONTHS."

SCOTT:"WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE SUMMER?"

KUHN:"FARM. WE HAD 80 ACRES SO THAT KEPT US BUSY. BESIDES THE COWS WE PLANTED FEED AND WHEAT."

SCOTT:"DO YOU KNOW HOW THE SCHOOLS WERE FINANCED?"

KUHN:"THROUGH TAXES. THESE WERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DON'T FORGET."

SCOTT:"CAN YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE COMMUNITIES EXPECTED FROM THE TEACHER, HIS BEHAVIOR I MEAN?"

KUHN:"WELL I DIDN'T SMOKE OR GO TO BARS SO I GUESS I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT."

SCOTT:"DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THESE SCHOOLS WERE BUILT?"

KUHN:"AT EMMERAM, I THINK IT WAS BUILT AROUND 1915. THERE USED TO BE A PARISH SCHOOL, THE ONE I WENT TO, BUT IT WAS TORN DOWN AND THE PUBLIC ONE WAS BUILT. THE OTHERS THAT I DON'T REMEMBER."

SCOTT:"OK, ARE THE SCHOOLS STILL STANDING TODAY?"

KUHN:"BLUE HILL IS BUT NOT LOST CANYON. ALL THE OTHERS ARE THOUGH."

SCOTT:"ARE THEY USED FOR ANYTHING NOW THAT YOU KNOW OF?"

KUHN:"I THINK THERE IS SOMEBODY LIVING IN SEVERIN (PLEASANT RIDGE) A DIVORCEE, BUT BLUE HILL, WALKER, AND EMMERAM ARE EMPTY."

SCOTT:"WHAT WAS THE GREATEST DISTANCE A STUDENT HAD TO TRAVEL TO GET TO SCHOOL?"

KUHN:"ABOUT THREE OR FOUR MILES."

SCOTT:"HOW WOULD THEY GET THERE?"

KUHN:"MOST FAMILIES WOULD HAVE A TEAM OF HORSES. THEY WOULD JUST HITCH UP THE TEAM AND AT EMMERAM WE HAD A BARN RIGHT NEXT TO THE SCHOOL. THE STUDENTS WOULD JUST RIDE THE TEAM TO SCHOOL AND LEAVE THEM IN THE BARN AND RIDE THEM BACK HOME AFTER SCHOOL."

SCOTT:"KIND OF LIKE KIDS DO NOW WITH THEIR CARS HUH?"

KUHN: "WELL OF COURSE NO KIDS HAD THEIR OWN CAR. THE PARENTS BROUGHT MOST OF THEM LATER ON."

SCOTT: "I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN THESE BUILDINGS. DID THEY HAVE PLUMBING, YOU KNOW, TOILETS?"

KUHN: "ONLY WALKER AND SEVERIN HAD PLUMBING. THE REST HAD JUST outhouses BUT THE outhouses DID HAVE LIGHTS."

SCOTT: "HOW'D THE SCHOOLS GET THEIR WATER?"

KUHN: "WELL AT BLUE HILL AND PLEASANT RIDGE WE HAD TO PUMP IT FROM A WELL BUT THE OTHERS HAD THEIR OWN SYSTEM."

SCOTT: "DID YOU HAVE ANY MAPS OR GLOBES TO USE?"

KUHN: "NOT AT FIRST, ONLY AT SEVERIN AND WALKER DID WE GET THESE THINGS. I DID HAVE PHONICS CHARTS TO USE THOUGH. WE SPENT ALOT OF TIME ON PHONICS. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FANCY DUPLICATING MACHINES EITHER LIKE YOU GUYS DO NOW. WE HAD TO MAKE OUR OWN WITH GELATIN AND COULD ONLY USE IT FOUR OR FIVE TIMES. IT WAS TOUGH."

SCOTT: "I BET IT WAS. WHAT OTHER CHANGES DO YOU SEE BETWEEN YOUR DAY AND MY DAY?"

KUHN: "WELL TODAY IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TEACHERS GET ABOUT ANYTHING YOU NEED. WE DIDN'T HARDLY GET ANYTHING. JUST TEXTBOOKS, THAT'S ABOUT IT."

SCOTT: "DID YOU GIVE ALOT OF TESTS?"

KUHN: "NO, NOT VERY MANY."

SCOTT: "WAS IT EASY TO GET AN 'A' IN YOUR CLASS?"

KUHN: "NO, NOT REALLY. I HAD PRETTY GOOD STUDENTS THOUGH ESPECIALLY AT BLUE HILL."

SCOTT: "DID YOU GIVE REPORT CARDS OUT?"

KUHN: "OH YES, EVERY MONTH. LATER ON IT WAS EVERY TWO MONTHS."

SCOTT: "DID YOU HAVE A LIBRARY AT YOUR SCHOOLS?"

KUHN: "AT SEVERIN, BLUE HILL AND WALKER. THE OTHERS DIDN'T."

SCOTT: "HOW DID THESE SCHOOLS GET THEIR NAMES?"

KUHN: "WELL AT BLUE HILL THERE IS A HILL THAT LOOKS BLUE. THAT MAKES SENSE DOESN'T IT? AT EMMERAM, IT WAS NAMED AFTER A PRIEST, FATHER EMMERAM. THE OTHERS I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS AT LOST CANYON IT SITS IN A CANYON THAT GOT LOST, WHO KNOWS?"

SCOTT: "CAN YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE SCHOOLS CLOSED?"

KUHN: "THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU, PAT."

SCOTT: "HOW COME YOU STARTED IN ONE SCHOOL, MOVED TO ANOTHER, AND BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL?"

KUHN: "I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS THAT'S WHERE THEY NEEDED ME. ALSO SALARY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT I SUSPECT."

SCOTT: "DID YOUR SCHOOLS HAVE ANY SPECIAL CEREMONIES OR OBSERVANCES?"

KUHN: "WELL OF COURSE WE HAD CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS. I ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT THE MUSIC FESTIVAL. THAT WAS ABOUT IT."

SCOTT: "DID YOU HAVE A SPELLING BEE?"

KUHN: "WELL THE COUNTY DID. WE SENT A FEW STUDENTS TO IT."

SCOTT: "CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT SOME OF YOUR STUDENTS WENT ON AND BECAME? WHAT JOBS DID THEY GET?"

KUHN: "MOST OF THEM STAYED ON THE FARM BUT A COUPLE BECAME TEACHERS. YOU KNOW, JUST THE USUAL JOBS."

SCOTT: "DID THEY STAY MAINLY IN THIS AREA?"

KUHN: "ALMOST ALL OF THEM THAT I KNOW DID."

SCOTT: "WEREN'T MOST OF YOUR STUDENTS CATHOLIC?"

KUHN: "ALL OF THEM WERE EXCEPT FOR ONE FAMILY IN THE BLUE HILL SCHOOL."

SCOTT: "DID THEY PARTAKE IN YOUR SCHOOL PRAYERS?"

KUHN: "OH YES."

SCOTT: "WERE YOUR STUDENTS ALL OF VOLGA GERMAN HERITAGE?"

KUHN: "YES, THEY WERE FROM THE OLD COUNTRY. NOW WALKER HAD SOME THAT WERE LOW DUTCH THOUGH."

SCOTT: "DID YOUR SCHOOLS OFFER ANY SPECIAL CLASSES LIKE PHYSICAL ED OR SOMETHING FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED?"

KUHN: "OH, NO. WE JUST WENT IN TO OUR ROOM AND THAT IS WHERE I OFFICIATED OVER EVERYTHING."

SCOTT: "DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY BIG CONTROVERSIES OR ARGUMENTS WITH PARENTS OR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS?"

KUHN: "NO, NOT AT ALL. I ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF IT."

SCOTT: "WELL AFTER 42 YEARS OF TEACHING AND YOU CAN SAY THAT, YOU MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING RIGHT. NOW WAS THERE ANY COST INVOLVED IN GOING TO SCHOOL?"

KUHN: "NO, NOTHING."

SCOTT: "NOW YOU SAID YOU HAD TO FURNISH SOME OF YOUR OWN MATERIALS, WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU HAVE TO BRING?"

KUHN: "WELL WE HAD DRAWING, YOU KNOW TRACING. I HAD TO SUPPLY THE PAPER FOR THAT."

SCOTT: "DO YOU REMEMBER WHY THE SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED DOWN?"

KUHN:"I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS IT WAS BECAUSE FEWER STUDENTS STARTED SHOWING UP. THEY STARTED GOING INTO VICTORIA, HAYS, AND CATHERINE WHEN THEIR SCHOOLS OPENED UP."

SCOTT:"WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU RAN A STRICT CLASSROOM?"

KUHN:"NO. I WAS PRETTY LENIENT. THEY WERE GOOD KIDS."

SCOTT:"DO YOU KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY PERMANENT RECORDS LEFT?"

KUHN:"I THINK AT THE COURTHOUSE THERE ARE SOME. I WENT OUT THERE ONE TIME TO TRY GET A LIST OF SOME OF MY FORMER STUDENTS. MAYBE AT THE BOARD OFFICE THEY HAVE SOME TOO."

SCOTT:"HOW WERE THE SCHOOLS HEATED?"

KUHN:"AT EMMERAM, WE HAD THE OLD POT-BELLIED STOVES. THE OTHERS HAD A REGULAR FURNACE."

SCOTT:"DID ANY KIDS EVER PLAY ANY TRICKS ON YOU?"

KUHN:"NO. I REMEMBER AT HALLOWEEN WE HAD PARTIES AND THE PARENTS WOULD COME AND PLAY CARDS DOWN STAIRS. THE KIDS PLAYED THEIR GAMES UPSTAIRS."

SCOTT:"DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS ABOUT YOUR 42 YEARS OF TEACHING?"

KUHN:"NOT A ONE. I LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT."

SCOTT:"WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING DIFFERENT?"

KUHN:"I WOULD HAVE GONE RIGHT AWAY TO FORT HAYS INSTEAD OF THE BUSINESS COLLEGE. I WENT LATER BUT I NEVER GRADUATED. I ONLY HAD 185 HOURS. I GOT A 60 HOUR CERTIFICATE WHICH THEY LATER TURNED INTO A LIFE CERTIFICATE. BUT WE DID HAVE TO GO 4 WEEKS OF SUMMER SCHOOL EVERY SO OFTEN."

SCOTT:"YOU HAD THREE OF YOUR KIDS BECOME TEACHERS TOO DIDN'T YOU? YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD INFLUENCE."

KUHN:"THAT'S RIGHT. BILLY AND NORMA JEAN STILL TEACH AT VICTORIA. THEY'VE TAUGHT 20 TO 25 YEARS. MARLENE TAUGHT ONLY ONE YEAR OF MUSIC. I GUESS SHE DIDN'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH. SHE TAUGHT AT GORHAM."

SCOTT:"WELL MR. KUHN, IF YOU HAD TO GIVE SOME ADVICE TO SOMEBODY WHO WANTED TO BECOME A TEACHER WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?"

KUHN:"WELL JUST FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS AND YOU GOT TO LOVE CHILDREN! SHOW KIDS YOU CARE. ALSO, DEVOTE YOUR TIME TO YOUR PROFESSION."

SCOTT:"THAT'S RIGHT, IT IS A PROFESSION. IT TAKES ALOT OF WORK TO BE A GOOD TEACHER BUT I AGREE WITH YOU, IT IS WELL WORTH IT. MR. KUHN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW YOU. IT HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTING. KEEP THAT GARDEN GROWING!

KUHN:"YEA WELL THAT'S ABOUT ALL I DO NOW. I HOPE YOU GET SOMETHING OUT OF THIS. MAKE SURE YOU DOCTOR THIS UP AND MAKE ME SOUND GOOD!"

SCOTT:"I DON'T THINK I'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT TOO MUCH. YOU SOUNDED PRETTY GOOD JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!