

## **Interview with Mary Kallaus**

**April 4, 2011**

**Conducted in the Kallaus home, Kinsley, Kansas**

**Interviewers: Joan Weaver and Rosetta Graff, Kinsley Library**

**Present: Robert Kallaus, spouse**

*Mary was born April 1, 1939. Her parents names were (Robert) Todd Steele and Ethyl Banks Steele. Robert came to Edwards County when his employer, Kansas Power and Light, merged with the Kinsley Light Company. Ethyl worked in a hardware store in Larned and came to Edwards County when she married Robert. Mary has one brother, Tom Steele, who lives in Garden City. He is a retired carpenter.*

*Mary's maternal grandparents were Thomas and Mattie (Line) Banks. Thomas' father, Harrison Banks, and his 3 brothers came to Pawnee County where they homesteaded after the Civil War. Harrison was a Union Veteran. Thomas was born in Pawnee County.*

*Mary's paternal grandparents were Samuel and Mattie (Majors) Steele. They met near Lincoln, Nebraska. They married and lived in Wallace County, Kansas where they had four children. The three oldest died in a diphtheria epidemic, with only the youngest son, (Robert) Todd Steele surviving. Samuel and Mattie could not face staying there, so they came to Pawnee County where Samuel's father ran a hotel and had land and farmed.*

Joan: Mary, you lived in town?

Mary: Yes.

Joan: Where were you born?

Mary: They went to the hospital in Larned....

Joan: What did your dad do?

Mary: My dad was line foreman for Kansas Power and Light.

Joan: What can you tell us about Kansas Power and Light?

Mary: I thought that their trucks were always just huge to me. But they couldn't have been very big, because you know where Leann and Steven's shop is? The little brick building just down from that, that was where they kept their trucks, and they'd get two trucks in there! So they really weren't very big. The guys had to ride on the back; there was a bench on the back of the truck. Daddy was so proud when they ordered one, and he somehow made recommendations that they kind of make a little box thing that they could cover in the wintertime with a big, heavy tarp, because it was so cold back there. They'd take turns getting up in front to warm up.

Joan: What territory was KP&L? Was it just the Kinsley city limits?

Mary: Well, they did a lot around Larned and Pawnee Rock and down south, you know, around Rozel and Burdett and in through there. The big blizzard (*March 24-25, 1957*), when that thing hit, they called and told Daddy that they needed to get the line gang together. We didn't see him for about 10 days, and when we did, he came home and got clean underwear and clean socks and put an extra pair of socks in his pocket. When he walked out that night, he told Mom, "Don't expect to hear from me until you see me."

Joan: Tell us about the blizzard. You lived through it here?

Mary: Well, it wasn't a big deal to me, because I lived in town and we had power all along. It was people out in the country that really suffered. There were a lot of people that got lost in the snow, and their cars plugged up and stalled. There were a lot of deaths from that one.

Joan: How much snow was there?

Mary: I don't know, it just drifted to where it covered the fence posts, it was so tall. People in the country didn't have electricity for months. But they weren't with KP&L. For some reason, there was, I don't know, it was kind of a political thing.

Joan: A different co-op?

Mary: KP&L would come out to just certain places. Now along the road there at Sts. Peter and Paul up to the church wasn't there...

Robert: That was in the dirty thirties. KP&L went down the road out here and went to the city limits or something like that. Then, if you had \$500, you could hook on and go on out. Well, just a handful of them had \$500 there at that time. I got into it with old Gordon Coates. I said, "You guys really screwed things up."

Mary: Now, my dad was that way about it too.

Robert: I said, "Now you guys had the chance. The government had to come in and give the farmers electricity, but you would not hook us on. Then we didn't have enough money to hook on." I can't feel sorry for them. I told them I could care less if they go broke.

Mary: I don't think they really cared. I think they thought they had all they could handle at the time. But it probably was a mistake on their part.

Robert: They'd do just like they do now. They build another plant.

Mary: Well, Daddy started out in the Depression. He didn't finish high school, and he got a job with whatever electric it was at that time. It wasn't Kansas Power and Light. (*Kinsley Light Plant*)

Robert: Well, it was this one right down here. It was privately owned.

Mary: Well, whatever. Anyway, he climbed poles. He told about one time when it was a blizzard and he stopped at a farm. (I can't think of their names. They were big cattle and horse people over on this side of Larned.) Anyway, he borrowed a horse and he rode the line to find out what was down and where and how bad it was.

Robert: He still came back.

Mary: No, he had to ride back. It was probably the coldest ride he ever had on a horse.

Joan: Now, did you have brothers and sisters?

Mary: Yes, my brother Tom who lives in Garden City. He's two years older than I am.

Robert: He's getting pretty old, isn't he?

Mary: Yes. Mom called us the Katzenjammer Kids because what one didn't think of the other one did. We were pretty ornery.

Joan: And you attended St. Nicholas?

Mary: Oh no, I wasn't a Catholic.

Joan: You weren't Catholic at this time.

Mary: You know, I know more about prejudice than Bob did in his interview. He was isolated (*within a Catholic community*).

Robert: Well, frankly, I didn't give a darn.

Joan: So what church did you attend?

Mary: The Episcopal Church.

Robert: I always called her mom just a "half-baked Catholic."

Mary: That would get Mother in a tizzy.

Joan: I'm sure it did. So you went to the public school then.

Mary: Yes, I went to Southside. I started kindergarten there and went clear through the sixth grade. We had a tumbling team in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade. Mrs. Husted had been a P.E. major, she had a double major, that and English. So she really liked it, and Gale Graff had done a lot of tumbling. They got us started with a tumbling team, and we went around to some P.T.A. meetings and things like that and performed. We thought we were really hot stuff.

Joan: Did you ever have a costume uniform?

Mary: I don't remember if we wore red shorts, but we had...Southside was called the Kinsley Bulldogs. They always played Lincoln back and forth. We all had bulldog T-shirts; I know that. Maxine Draut's School of Dance was real popular at that time. And some of us had danced, but my expertise was acrobatics. The tumbling team was just...

Joan: By dancing you mean tap dancing?

Mary: Ballet, toe dancing, and acrobatics. I did a little tap, but I wasn't very good at it. But I always did acrobatics. So I really enjoyed the tumbling team.

Joan: How big was your class, about? (1957)

Mary: We graduated with 41 or 42. When we got out of sixth grade we went to the high school

to junior high. Then the Lincoln kids came.

Joan: Was the junior high in the high school?

Mary: There were three rooms set aside for the junior high.

Joan: Were you in sports or cheerleading?

Mary: Cheerleading was not my bag.

Mary: I sort of twirled. I was a twirler girl (*along with six other girls*).

Joan: So were you in the band too? Or just a twirler?

Mary: Well, I had to be in the band to twirl, so they put me in the drum section. I tried to drum, but when we went to contest, "Mr. Radke," I said, "What am I supposed to do?" And he said, "Just pretend. Don't hit the head."

Joan: How big was the band then?

Mary: Oh, it was good sized. There was a bass drummer and there were probably five in the drum section, so you know it was...

Joan: Did you play at football games and marched in parades?

Mary: I didn't play at football games or anything. I always performed. I marched with them in uniform and went out there and twirled a little bit at halftime. That was really more of a social thing for me. We always took the band to the fair.

Joan: The State Fair.

Mary: Yes, and that's when the big petticoats and crinolines were the big thing. We came up with the idea that our short twirling skirts would be much more attractive with red crinolines. And our mothers made us little short petticoats and our short skirts stood out. We were the talk of the fair. Everybody would say, "There's the band with the twirlers wearing can-cans." And next year there were lots of petticoats on the twirlers.

Joan: You were a star, then!

Robert: Was Dawson here then? I'm surprised he allowed that.

Mary: Well, I don't know. We made quite a stir. Of course, we really shook it, and thought we were great. I didn't get serious about school until my senior year. And then I went to college and found out that I should have gotten serious much sooner. I really had to study.

Joan: Now, why did you go to college?

Mary: I didn't have many cousins, but the girls all became nurses. Mother thought that's what I should be. At different times as I was growing up, I thought it would be cool. Well, at the

beginning of our senior year, one of my best friends was in an accident with her sister and her mother and dad. Her folks, were killed. So I went to Hutchinson to sit with her in the hospital a couple times. She was really hurt badly. I was one of them that went in and helped clean up their apartment after they were killed. I had never been faced with death before. It was really traumatic. I just sat there and talked to her and held her hand. She was so broken up about losing her folks, and I had no answers. All I could think of was, "I don't want to do this for the rest of my life." I did not want to be in an emergency room when somebody like this comes in or have to come in and deal with situations like that. My cousin was the head nurse in some nursing program up around Kansas City, and mother had even had me enrolled. I didn't want to go. So she said, "What will you do?" And I said, "I don't know. I like kids. I want to work with kids. Healthy kids." "Well, Emporia's the place you'll go then." So they packed me up, and I cried my heart out and told my horse goodbye. I thought I was gonna die. I missed him more than I did anybody. And off I went to Emporia. None of my classmates went up there. So I was just dropped off in a new world. Kind of like Bobby was with high school. It was a terrible adjustment. Girls didn't have cars. So the only way to come home was to find somebody that did have a car that would bring you home or you had to ride the bus or the train. To ride the bus, which would get me home by suppertime, I had to cut classes. It took me a semester to figure out that that was not a wise thing to do -- to cut classes to go home. I usually rode the train home. Bobby would come sometimes if I rode the fast train (it didn't stop in small towns). He'd come to Dodge and to pick me up and bring me home.

Joan: But there were slow trains that were still stopping in Kinsley.

Mary: Oh yes.

Robert: That was the milk train.

Mary: Yes, it would stop a couple times probably, and this one came straight through.

Robert: The last year, (*before we were married, Mary was teaching in Dodge*). We had a deal worked out that when she was home I'd leave my car at the Kinsley depot, and drive in her car to and go to the picture show in Dodge. Then I'd catch the milk train and go back home.

Mary: We had to be careful and not miss that train because I had to be in school the next day.

Robert: What did you call him, the brakeman?

Mary: The conductor? Or the brakeman?

Robert: I don't know, one night at the picture show, it ran a hair or two long, and, the conductor yelled as we drove up, "Hurry up! Hurry up! I can't hold it any longer, Hurry!"

Mary: That was really kind of cool because the train man looked for him on Sunday night.

Joan: What did it cost you to ride home on the train?

Robert: I forget.

Mary: Probably a dollar or two.

Joan: What about home from Emporia?

Mary: You know, I don't remember. I'm sure it was under ten dollars.

Joan: So then you majored in education.

Mary: Yes, and became an elementary teacher. I got a job in Dodge City at Miller School, which is on the east side. That was my first experience with multi-racial kids. I really enjoyed it. Most of the kids there were very poor, and they just thought...they were just so happy to be at school. They weren't hard to discipline at all. I had first grade. You know, everybody thinks of John Kennedy as the Peace Corps person. Well, we had a very progressive woman principal, and she found out that I could do tumbling. There was a sixth grade teacher, Lyle Harvey, that was good at tumbling. The music teacher was too old to get on the mats, but she was familiar with it. We started a tumbling program in the school before school. That was to go along with John Kennedy's fitness for youth. The teachers couldn't wear slacks to school then, I would go to school with my jeans and sweatshirt on and my good clothes on a hanger. When tumbling was over, one of the kid's mother would go into the classroom and take roll and do the Pledge of Allegiance. By that time, I would have my school clothes on and then I would teach. I do have some pictures from a newspaper over there. After the newspaper had done this story on us, they sent it to President John Kennedy. He sent a letter of congratulations back to the school. I would have given anything to have had that letter. I did ask my principal years later if she still had Kennedy's letter. Well, she was sure she did, but she had no idea where. She was retired and didn't know where it would or whether it was left at Miller or what. It was really neat. It got the kids to school, and they were happy. It was a good program and a lot of fun.

Joan: Okay, we didn't cover this in Bobby's interview, but you are 3 ½ years younger, and Protestant, and there's some objections by your father when this liaison you're having with this Catholic country boy with the motorcycle...

Mary: My dad was a good Mason. He had come from a family where the German Catholics were second class citizens. He tried not to be so prejudices, but that's what he was. He really hoped that, you know, after bob went overseas, that when he came back I would be involved with somebody in college. Mother was hoping for a lawyer or a doctor or something. I disappointed her greatly. But we went to a lot of wedding dances. In high school, there was a roller skating rink. When I was grade school, I think it was just in grade school, we needed a skating rink. So it was the younger guys who had come back from World War II. They decided to make us a skating rink down in what we called the "Pink Building." They put some kind of synthetic flooring down. I skated in there lots and lots. Sometime later, a nice one was built by Feldmans. I skated some in high school.

Joan: When did your dad come around? Or didn't he?

Mary: He did. I heard him say before we were married, I had my ring, one of the relatives said, "What's wrong that you don't like him?" And Daddy said, "Well, he's a hard worker, and he's never been in trouble." He said, "He's okay, except he's a Catholic." The relative said, "I think maybe you ought to be glad she's found somebody who's a hard worker and never been in trouble!" And Daddy said, "Well, I suppose." Then later on, one time, I came to town with the kids. I hadn't done all my running around, and got my groceries and hadn't gone to see everybody I wanted to see. So I stopped in at Mom's and said, "How about supper?" She said

that would be fine; she'd like to have us for supper. I called Bobby and told him to fix his own supper. My dad just sat there. Of course in his generation women didn't do that. He looked at me and said, "That's really a poor way to show a hard working guy how much you appreciate him. Go fix your own supper."

Joan: But you converted?

Mary: Yes. It was kind of, oh, there were a lot of older people that I had known who were kind of shaking their heads.

Joan: But it worked out fine.

Mary: Yes, it didn't come apart.

Robert: This was the Ku-kluxingest town!

Mary: It was. It really was.

Robert: Blacks and Catholics, they had no use for. I think that's why the Mexicans, had their little shanty town across the railroad track.

Mary: In Mexican town, most of the women didn't come to town, I don't think, at all.

Mary: I graduated from Emporia in 1961 and began teaching that fall at Miller School in Dodge City. Then Bobby came in. I had my ring, and he came in one evening after school and I could tell he'd been to the sale barn from the way he was dressed and you could smell the tobacco and all. He said, "I just bought a load of cattle." And I said, oh you know, city girl, "Oh you did?" "Yeh." "Do you have the money to pay for them?" And he said, "No, but Bill (*Allison*) at the bank has a lot of faith in me, and he told me to just go buy whatever I wanted and come in the next day and we'll work it out." And I said, "How much did you spend?" He said something like, "\$2,000." Does that sound right?

Robert: No, I think it was about \$5,000.

Mary: Anyway, I gasped, "That's more than I make all year!" We lost our tails on that, too.

Robert: We lost our butts.

Mary: He learned afterwards that when bankers act friendly, sometimes you back off.

Rosetta: You were raised in the city and then moved to the country as a married lady. Was that quite an adjustment?

Mary: Yes. I was so lonesome I thought I'd die. It was just...I was used to having kids and people around. I really didn't know anybody out there to go visit, so I talked on the phone a lot. Now that brings me to the country phone lines. We had six people on our party line, and some of the older ones, they just liked to listen. You knew they were on there just listening. Then there was one guy who was just really awful. He'd pick it up, and I'd be talking, and he say, "Get the \_\_\_\_ off the telephone!" And then he'd bang it down, and then he come back and go bang!

Bang! Bang! Bang! And then he'd cuss a little bit. Well, that makes you not want to hang up. Later on, when they put the underground cable in out there, we ended up with just Dockendorfs, Norman Herrmanns and us. That was a lot better. There were no secrets out there because everybody listened on the telephone.

Joan: To back up a little bit, did you get married at St. Nicholas?

Mary: Yes, Bobby had lived in town with his folks when he came home from the army. So we got married at St. Nicholas.

Joan: A big wedding with bridesmaids and things?

Mary: Well, yes, it was average.

Robert: The church was full.

Joan: Did your daddy pay for the wedding?

Mary: He paid for a lot and I paid for a lot. My folks paid for some. My uncle was in the printing business, so he did all the invitations as a gift. Then, you know, they didn't go for all the decorations and so on like they do.

Joan: Did you have a wedding dinner and dance then?

Mary: Of course. We had a dinner. We got married in the morning, and we had the dinner at St. Nicholas. The reception was in the evening, and the dance followed. That was out at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Robert: I bought two kegs of beer and never got a drink of it.

Mary: It was all gone by the time we got out of the reception. He was really steamed about that.

Joan: And you were having this dance under the stars?

Mary: On the platform.

Joan: And you had nice weather?

Mary: Yes, it was real nice weather.

Robert: No rain. It rained like hell about midnight.

Mary: It was just starting to sprinkle when we left.

Joan: And you had a honeymoon?

Mary: Well, we went to Dodge and then we came back the next day. Because it had rained, Bobby had some field work that needed to be done. So we waited about a week, I think it was, and then we went to the World's Fair in Seattle.

Joan: That would be quite a trip! You drove? How long were you gone?

Mary: About ten days, two weeks.

Joan: What impressed you about the world's fair in Seattle

Mary: Those hills in Seattle.

Robert: Today our cars are running just like they said they *would with computers connected to satellites*. I couldn't understand what was going on. It was all electronic; it was all the future. (*The theme was the future – electronics and robots. We couldn't imagine those things.*)

Mary: They had a home that was built in this big building, and it was all glassed in and futuristic. They had robots doing things and microwaves and things that to us for just so far out. Good grief, that will never happen. The best part was when we took the ferry over to Vancouver or Victoria. We had heard about it. I had a little shopping bag that I'd been carrying to put souvenirs in. We threw a few necessities into it and drove way up the coast to get to this ferry and went over to Victoria and spent a couple days there. I thought that was the most beautiful city I'd ever seen because of all the hanging flowers.

Robert: Was that where we went into the restaurant that was out over the water to eat?

Mary: No, that was in Seattle.

Robert: That's what I said, Seattle. Anyway. We just didn't have enough money! We got in there, and I wondered just what the heck we were going to do. We had travelers' checks in the car, so I donated Mary for collateral while I went out to the car and got the travelers' checks.

Mary: Then they carried the travelers' check with a silver tray. We got in over our heads on that.

Joan: Was the space needle a part of the fair? That's when it was built?

Robert: Yes.

Mary: We went up it, but we couldn't afford to eat there. It was real expensive. They had the monorail. It was built for the World's Fair, and we rode the monorail downtown. I thought that was an exciting thing because it was so fast. Everything was just a blur.

Joan: Did you sightsee on your way there and back?

Mary: Oh yes. We saw Yellowstone.

Joan: And the Grand Tetons?

Mary: We didn't go into the Tetons.

Robert: We'd had enough mountains.

Mary: But Yellowstone was really interesting.

;

Robert: Now they built three of those space needles: also one in Las Vegas and one in San Antonio.

Joan: That was exciting time, then.

Mary: Those two needles, we saw them later.

Joan: And then you started having children?

Mary: Yes. I had Curtis baptized on our first anniversary. He was a terrible baby; he cried and cried and cried. But anyway, he's big and healthy now.

Mary: After Curtis was born I was asked to teach St. Mary's. They had a one room schoolhouse up there. I said something to old Dr. Schnoebelen about it, He looked at me and said, "Now let me tell you something. This is the way it really is, or should be. What a child learns in the first five years is the most important they'll ever learn. Now, you need to stay home with him for five years. Then you go do what you want to. But you need to stay home with that baby for five years."

Robert: Boy, they don't do that any more.

Mary: Now they go as soon as they... Well, I stayed in the hospital for five days when I had Leann. That was the third one. Dr. Schnoebelen asked if I was going to have any help, and I said, "Bob's mother is going to come out once in a while." And he says, "That's not good enough. You'll stay until I let you go." And I had to stay for seven days. He said, "You'll just go home and work yourself to death running after those kids." I don't know if he thought I was milking cows or I was going to go drive tractor or what. But I didn't drive tractor, and I didn't drive cows. That was one thing my mother told me before I got married. She said, "If you don't learn to milk cows, you'll never have to. If you learn to milk a cow, you're going to be stuck out there evening after evening. Just don't learn to milk." That was great advice!

Joan: Did you garden and can and that sort of thing?

Mary: I tried to garden, but I just didn't...there was too much wind. Oh, I did can some tomatoes and peaches and made jelly and stuff like that.

Joan: When did you go back to teaching?

Mary: Curtis was just a year and a half, and a teacher over at Lincoln had broken her contract. Her husband had moved to California, so she was going too. That was for third grade. We'd just bought a half-section down by Nettleton. So I said to Bobby, "What do you think about me seeing if I can get that job?" "Oh," he said, "I don't think they'll hire you probably, but go ahead. It would sure be handy." So I called Rosetta's father-in-law (*Gale Graff*) in the evening, and I said, "When are they going to hire this teacher for the third grade?" He said, "Tomorrow night. Are you interested?" He had been my principal and grade school teacher. And I said, "Well yes, I'm interested." He said, "My gosh, you're almost too late. We've got some really good people applying, but they're all out of towners. You get in there first thing in the morning

and I'll tell Mr. Crouch that you'll be coming." So I went in, and we talked a little bit. He says, "Okay, I'll present your name to the board." Of course, I knew almost everybody on the board, and I got my job. I started teaching the third grade.

Joan: And Curtis was just a year and a half. So you didn't wait the five years.

Mary: No. Anyway, I got pregnant with Lisa just right off. So of course I just finished that year and went back home. I didn't go back to teaching until Leann was in kindergarten. I did a lot of substituting, most of that was in Offerle. And a teacher called in sick after the second week of school, it was the sixth grade. I was NOT an upper grade teacher, I knew that. But anyway, Mr. Graff called me and I went in. I thought it would be a week, maybe, at the most. She had no lesson plans. She had nothing laid out. Then he came to me on Friday and said, "Well, you better come back next week. I guess she's not any better." It was almost time for report cards, six weeks at that time, and I said to him, "Mr. Graff, what am I going to do for report cards and conferences?" And he says, "I've been calling and asking, and her husband just keeps saying, 'Well, it's mono'." So finally he went down and got in his face and said, "What's going on?" She'd had a nervous breakdown. She was in Larned! (*Larned State Hospital*) So she resigned, and I finished out that sixth grade year. There were two sixth grades. Curtis was in the other sixth grade. Towards the end of the year he said the fourth grade teacher is going to retire, so why don't you just take that? I said I don't know anything about the fourth grade. And he said, "Oh, I think you'd like it. I really think you'd like it!" So, he convinced me, and I went to fourth grade and that's where I stayed for the next almost 30 years.

Joan: And what school were you teaching in at this point?

Mary: Both of those were over in the Lincoln Building. Then after I was moved to Southside for a few years with the fourth grade, because of the enrollment they moved me back over to Lincoln. Then I was back to Southside. Then they moved me to Offerle and I was at Offerle for eight years. Then I came back to Southside.

Joan: And you were teaching to help out with the farm expenses?

Mary: Mostly because I wanted to.

Joan: During this period, we had the consolidation of schools.

Mary: That had already taken place.

Joan: What year was consolidation?

Rosetta: '68 and '69 was consolidation.

Mary: Okay, gosh, maybe I was too at Southside when they started sending some Offerle kids over. Because there were some of them that were really upset, you know, little kids. But then after I retired, I went up to the high school and did in-school suspension and worked with some of the kids.

Joan: But you don't remember that consolidation period and the politics of that or...

Mary: No, I really don't. I remember a couple of the kids were so scared when they came over, the little grade school kids. When they came over they cried. There were hard feelings, that's why.

Joan: When they consolidated, why were kids coming over here?

Mary: Okay, when they consolidated, they took the junior high and moved it over into the south end of the Offerle building. I think they still had the lower grades, they were double rooms. There three rooms, and you know, first and second, and third and fourth, and fifth and sixth together.

Joan: I'm just trying to figure why were Offerle kids coming here?

Mary: I don't remember. Do you know how that...?

Rosetta: They kept the grade school at Offerle.

Mary: I know because I subbed in that grade school a lot before I went back to teaching.

Rosetta: I don't know why.

Mary: And then when they decided...I guess maybe they just turned the whole building into junior high.

Joan: Maybe some parents decided to go towards the Kinsley road.

Rosetta: Galen was over there.

Mary: Okay, they sent the little kids over and the fifth and sixth grade went over and they were in the north end, and the junior high was in the other end.

Joan: So it became sort of a middle school junior high?

Mary: Because when I was moved from Kinsley to the fourth grade, they moved the fourth grade over there and then it was fourth/fifth/sixth and seventh and eight.

Robert: Has Galen (Graff) turned black yet from drinking so much coffee?

Rosetta: No, he doesn't seem to be. You said that Curtis went to Southside, right?

Mary: No, Curtis started at the parochial school. We took him out in fourth grade and put him in at Lincoln.

Rosetta: I'm sorry, I thought you said that Curtis was the same class of sixth graders and you were in the other class of sixth graders.

Mary: Yes, I was at Lincoln.

Rosetta: Because I wondered what Curtis was doing at Southside if he was a country boy. I got

mixed up.

Mary: That's okay, it's kind of confusing, but of all Mr. Graff's students that he had go through his grade school, I was the only one that came back and taught for him. When I retired, Tara was in first grade, and I told Leann, "Okay, I'm all checked out and ready to go." I said, "I'm going to do something that was important to me when I was a little kid at Southside." At Southside, if you were good, when you had to stand in the entryway, and it was pretty little, you were just packed in there. Before the bell rang, if you were good, the janitor when he came to ring the bell would choose you to help him ring the bell. You'd ride the rope. I always thought that was the most exciting thing. So, I told Leann to bring Tara over because I'm going to go out the same door. I going to finish my education going out the same door that I came in to go to kindergarten, and my granddaughter is going to ring the bell with me. Judy Shepherd and a few of them in the building knew that I was going to do that. So Tara and I pulled the bell and rang it and everybody came down. We took pictures, but they didn't come out.

Joan: There's probably other things we're missing with you, but we need to wind up.