

## Virginia Parsons Martin

Introduction to Virginia Parsons Martin: Virginia Martin was born in Avon and taught school here for many years. She and her husband, Howard, live in Vermillion County, Indiana. She was interviewed, along with her cousin Virginia Parsons Vapor, by Sandy Curry.

Virginia: We'd always had the big steam engines with the big black smoke going on that railroad just south of the schoolhouse. Somehow, someone found out that the new train was going to come through. We didn't call it diesel, we called it streamline... Anyway, they found out what time it was going to come through and I don't know whether we were dismissed to go see it or whether it was recess, but we were on the playground. Someone said it was going to take to people to see it, one to say, "Here it comes" and the other one to say, "There it goes" because it went to fast. Well, it didn't go that fast, but it was a silver engine and we were all out there to see it. That was a great day...

...I might tell about how the old [school] building looked. When you went in the front doors, you went up some steps and then you were in a hallway; to the left was the trustees' office and the third grade. On the south were two rooms, the fourth and fifth [grades], and on the northwest side was sixth, at least when I was there. Those rooms were cold, especially that sixth grade room...the windows were in terrible shape and it would snow in on the sills. Along around fifth or sixth grade, the government decided to give each student free milk and it was in glass bottles. They would bring it in the morning and we'd set the [bottles] in those window sills and they would freeze...