

## Joe Bartlett

### Capitol Page School

Memories of the Capitol School during the 1940s.

*Interview recorded April 7, 2006*

They were held down in what is I think now is the air conditioning room. It's called the West Terrace, right close to where President Reagan established the way of getting sworn in. It's in that part of the Capitol, on the west side. It was dank. We generated our own electricity. We, the Capitol, generated its own electricity in those days. It was direct current. So if you brought an alternating current device in, you'd probably lost it, like that. {laughter} But it was done right across the hall from Page School. And those whine of those generators was constant. They were big! And we met down there. It was a private school. It was conducted by E. L. Kendall. He was the principal, a very Spartan Baptist gentleman. I happened to like him very much. But he was straight-laced. There was no doubt about that. We paid \$19 a month for tuition. And there were other maintenance problems down there. The roof leaked. And it was not completely uncommon to go in there and find that on the floor there was a puddle. And you had to put down planks so we could arrive at our seats. We'd walk in on the planks, take our seats, hold our feet up, and study Latin. It was something to have happen. And incidentally, one time a fellow switched on the light, and the light bulb—the light globe was full of water, and of course it went kapoop then. {laughter} We had a darkened room. There was another problem down in that area. This was a forsaken area at that time. Nobody went down there.