

We heard about the *Brown* decision, but with our schools being segregated, many teachers were very afraid to really discuss things. We did have some who were outspoken and willing to talk with you and let you know exactly what was going on. I will never forget Mrs. Maggie Hrowbuski in elementary school. One day when the World Series was about to start, she asked the class, "Who are you pulling for?"

And the whole class said, "The Dodgers! The Dodgers!" She asked, "Do you know why?" Everybody went blank. It was probably something you heard your parents say. Then she gave us a lecture on Jackie Robinson. I will never forget that. She was a very dedicated person, and she believed in teaching us about our own people. When she got through lecturing us on Jackie Robinson and how the Dodgers were the first team to allow a black to become a member, well, then we knew why we were rooting for the Dodgers.

LARRY RUSSELL

Larry Russell was a student in Birmingham during the 1950s and 1960s. He attended segregated schools.

We had Negro Education Week in school, where your teachers would assign you a task of finding something that was done by a "colored" person. That was the term used then. Black kids had very limited knowledge of blacks' contribution to this society. The teacher would list famous people, and always heading the group would be George Washington Carver. You can imagine that if there were only ten or fifteen names on the list, and there are maybe thirty to thirty-five students, George Washington Carver and the peanut goes around many times. Everybody is sitting there bored, and the next year you come back and it's right back to George Washington Carver and the peanut again. I can remember from the time I can remember being in school, we dwell on the peanut.

ROY DEBERRY

Roy DeBerry went to an all-black school in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

We went to a rural school. There was one teacher, Henry Boyd, who taught first through eighth grades, all in one room. He was black. We had to walk about three miles to school. When we got there, we had to do chores. We had one big potbelly stove that was in the middle of the room, and we had to get the wood for the stove. Because we didn't have a water supply, we had to go to a spring, which was about a mile away, to pick the water up and bring it back. We got fresh spring water every day.

There was not even an outhouse for the boys. Just the woods. I think there was an outhouse for the girls. And of course there was no electricity, so if it was stormy or dark outside we had to use an oil lamp. We also had to clean up in the afternoon because there was no such thing as a janitor.

Mr. Boyd was a history teacher. He talked to us about Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois. He talked to us about blacks who had been involved in early struggles. It made us proud. He was kind of an orator and a very colorful character. He had a way of making history come alive.

FRED TAYLOR

Fred Taylor was a student in Montgomery, Alabama, during the bus boycott.

I was in a segregated school—Booker T. Washington High School. I remember how we as students wanted to talk about what was going on in Montgomery. And how the teachers were in some instances discouraging us from bringing up the discussion. As I think about it in retrospect, they were nervous about losing their jobs. I mean, in Montgomery at the time the only professional jobs