

## Interview with Larissa Salas

5/27/02

Erica: This interview was conducted on May twenty seven, two thousand and two at the home of Larissa Salas in Aloha Oregon. The time is twelve thirty p.m. The interviewer is Erica Aranda and the interviewee is Larissa Salas.

Erica: What year did you first come to Century and why?

Larissa: Well when I first started out high school, Hill Hi is where I was as a sophomore, back then Brown Junior High went all the way up to ninth grade. So for ninth grade I was at Brown, and then Hill hi. It was in 197 that I started as a junior at Century.

Erica: What do you remember as your first impressions of the school

Larissa: (chuckle) It reminded me of a hospital actually, but it was really beautiful, it really was and I was extremely impressed by it. But um, yeah it was amazing, truly amazing, especially coming from Hill Hi where you were lucky to find a bathroom that worked.

Erica: what do you recall about the opening year?

Larissa: I remember what a big deal it was. I remember everyone kept saying ooooooh you go to Century! You know...big deal. I mean there were computers everywhere, and they really chose to, and I think that it was for the better in my opinion; you know they really pushed technology education. And I think that was just great.

Erica: Where you aware of the dispute about the Century border attendance boundary, and did it affect you and your friends in any way?

Larissa: I didn't really know anything about a dispute that was really going on. But you know some of my friends were going to Hill hi and some of them were going to Century. I don't know, I guess it wasn't really something that was brought up to much because I really wasn't informed about it.

Erica: What are some of the most positive/negative thing you remember most about going to Century?

Larissa: Everybody was really excited, you know. The most positive thing honestly were the handful of teachers..they were really great. I had one counselor there...him what's her name? I want to say Betsy Parey..

Erica: Mrs. Parich?

Larissa: Yeah! She actually got me, I'm at Portland State right now on a full scholarship, and she was the one "You have to try for this scholarship!" I was reluctant at first

because I didn't think I would get it, but I ended up getting it, and she essentially helped me pay for my entire under-graduate degree, which is really cool.

Erica: At first what do you think the goals of the Century Staff were?

Larissa: Pretty much the same goals as any other teacher I have had. I guess the goals that I saw, you know just to give us a great education. The opportunities, and to make sure we get them, the opportunities that were there. And um, technology, lots of technology. I remember we had lab 2000, do you guys still have that?

Erica: Uh, I think that kind of died off over the years. But I do remember hearing about it.

Larissa: That was a big deal when I was going there.

Erica: How did you feel about the size of the school?

Larissa: I think its entirely appropriate for the are we live in now, you know its ever growing and its certainly not going to get any smaller. It certainly wasn't too big of a school, but I do remember it feeling big to me at first. I think what probably needs to be happening, uh-oh here come some opinions here(chuckle) . Somehow our State, and the Portland Public schools have managed to really mess things up. Nine days being cut out the school year in the Portland Public school district, and I find that to be completely amazing that people will vote for, no increase in school funding, but they certainly don't want, wait I'm wording this all wrong. Its ok to have cheaper alcohol and cigarettes, but we have no money for schools. And I think that's really too bad.

Erica: What was it like when we added a fourth class the second year?

Larissa: fourth class?

Erica: You know how the first year they didn't have a senior class and, the following year it was added?

Larissa: It was fine, you know it was fun for my class and probably me as well because we were top of the totem pole for two years so it seemed easy. But I can see how that can be intimidating for maybe a freshman juts coming in that year.

Erica: Was it still crowded then?

Larissa: Yeah, it was still a little crowded. And in a sense its always felt crowded, you know what I mean? The last time it probably hasn't felt crowded to me was Elementary School.

Erica: The first year Century had a traditional eight period day, and the following year was the beginning of the block scheduling. How did that affect you? And what are your opinions to the advantages and disadvantages?

Larissa: I think the block scheduling is fantastic, you know we're not fifth graders with short attention span anymore. Plus, it gets you prepped for College, every class I take right now, I think the shortest class I take is fifty minutes long, but there are classes that are an hour and fifty, and I've had classes that are two hours and fifty. Being able to take classes that long is something I think needs practice, and I think the block scheduling is a great way to start it. It really promotes college level thinking.

Erica: What traditions do you think your class established at the school?

Larissa: (chuckle) When I was there, do you guys still do a carnival?

Erica: Jag fest?

Larissa: yes Jag fest! Yeah we started that, and we actually got the idea from Hill Hi's May Fay I think it was, which is their end of the year carnival. Um, honestly I don't think there is anymore, I feel bad I can't think of any right now, there are probably more, I just don't recall any of them.