

[00:00:00]

Interviewer: Black Archives of Mid America, and I'm interviewing a Mr. Adolf Ridgway. Mr. Ridgway was born September the 13th, 1890. First of all, Mr. Ridgway, where were you born?

Ridgway: I was born in a little town named Kedron, K-E-D-R-O-N, Kedron, Arkansas.

Interviewer: Kedron, Arkansas. When were you born again?

[00:00:32]

Ridgway: When was I born? What do you mean?

Interviewer: What was your birth date again?

Ridgway: September 13th, 1892.

Interviewer: What was your father's name?

Ridgway: John Robert Ridgway.

Interviewer: All right, and your mother's name.

Ridgway: Betty Ridgway.

Interviewer: All right. How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Ridgway: Well, I have only two. You want to know how many have I had? Eleven.

Interviewer: You had 11. Can you remember their names?

[00:00:58]

Ridgway: Yeah. Miss Cox, Ida Cox. But you want Ridgway.

Interviewer: What was her original name?

Ridgway: Ida Ridgway.

Interviewer: All right, go ahead.

Ridgway: Maddie Ridgway, Sally Ridgway, Jesse Ridgway, Inez Ridgway, Clara Ridgway, Mary Ridgway, Betty Ridgway, John Ridgway, Adolf Ridgway. That's it.

Interviewer: All right. How many of them are still alive?

Ridgway: Three.

Interviewer: Three. Where are they now?

Ridgway: I have two sisters in Rison, Arkansas.

Interviewer: Where?

[00:01:29]

Ridgway: In R-I-S-O-N, Rison, Arkansas.

Interviewer: Okay. Where's your brother?

Ridgway: He's dead. He's passed.

Interviewer: All right. I thought you said there were three that were still alive.

Ridgway: Well, there's myself.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Ridgway: Two sisters and one brother.

Interviewer: Okay. Let me see. When did you leave Arkansas?

Ridgway: Oh, I left Arkansas when I was a kid mostly, about 17, 18 years old.

[00:02:01]

Interviewer: What was your father's occupation?

Ridgway: Well, he was a carpenter.

Interviewer: He was a-

Ridgway: Carpenter.

Interviewer: And your mother's occupation?

Ridgway: Housewife.

Interviewer: Housewife. What do you remember of your father?

Ridgway: Well, I remember my father used to build houses, and I would go out to where he was building these houses. He built little frame houses, you know.

[00:02:27]

And I would go out to where he was building these houses. Then he was a minister. He was a preacher. And on Saturdays he would maybe come home, and then he would leave and go somewhere else again to get ready to preach Sunday.

Interviewer: Do you remember your grandfather?

Ridgway: Yes, I remember my grandfather.

Interviewer: What was his name?

Ridgway: Solomon Richordson.

Interviewer: And your grandmother.

Ridgway: Susan Richordson.

[00:02:57]

Interviewer: Okay. That's on which side of the family was that?

Ridgway: Mother.

Interviewer: All right. What about your father's side of the family?

Ridgway: Well, I can't remember my father's. I only seen his mother, and I was so small.

Interviewer: Okay. Where was he from?

Ridgway: He was from Hatchechubbee, Alabama.

Interviewer: All right. And where was your mother from, your mother's people from?

Ridgway: Louisiana, and I couldn't tell you the parish they was in, but they was in Louisiana.

Interviewer: Do you remember having any white people in your family at that point?

[00:03:30]

Ridgway: Any white?

Interviewer: Uh-huh. Aunt, uncle, grandparent?

Ridgway: Light people you mean? Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Ridgway: Very light people.

Interviewer: Did you go to school while you were in Arkansas?

Ridgway: I did. I went to about the eighth grade, and then my father died, and after my father died, why, I went to work there with my mother.

Interviewer: What school did you go to?

[00:03:59]

Ridgway: Richardson School. Where was that?

Interviewer: Where was that?

Ridgway: Richardson, R-I-C-H-O-R-D-S-O-N, Richardson School. It was on a man - it was on the land that my grandfather owned. And that's why they named it Richardson School. It was in the neighborhood, and all the kids come right to that school.

Interviewer: Black and white kids?

Ridgway: There wasn't any white very much in that neighborhood. So the white had a different school at Rison, Arkansas.

[00:04:31]

Interviewer: How did your father come by this land that he owned?

Ridgway: He bought it.

Interviewer: He bought it. How did he buy it?

Ridgway: Well, he bought it for \$1 an acre.

Interviewer: How was he able to come by the land at a dollar an acre?

Ridgway: Well, at that time, when he bought it, you know, I don't know his background. It was beyond my recollection. But when he bought it, that's what he bought it for, that dollar an acre. They wanted somebody to come in and go out there and take it over, you know, and all the men-

[00:05:02]

Well, in that country where I was, why, all those men, they had their own farms. It was completely owned by Negroes, Negroes, Negroes, Negroes, farm, farm after farm they owned. Of course, today they don't do it. They father's that owned that, they're dead, and they're gone, and all the children, just like to said, might be [inaudible 00:05:27].

[00:05:29]

They're gone. I'm gone. Of course, my two sisters is still there. But then my brother, and my other sisters, we all sold our land and left.

Interviewer: When you were six, why did you drop out of school when you were six?

Ridgway: Why did I drop out of school? A little bit better than six. I didn't start school till five. Yeah, five years old.

[00:05:59]

I didn't drop out, but when I dropped out, see, I was 14 when I dropped out of school.

Interviewer: What school? Did you drop out of Richardson School when you were 14?

Ridgway: Yeah, I dropped out.

Interviewer: Why did you drop out of school?

Ridgway: I went to, you know, help my mother. She had nine children left and two sisters married. Three sisters married. She had the other nine kids. I went to work and helped her out with them.

Interviewer: What kind of things did you do to make money back then?

[00:06:28]

Ridgway: Oh, I would go out, and I would cut cordwood, and I would help farmers. I'd go out to these farms, and I'd help these farmers to chop cotton, pick cotton [inaudible 00:06:45] took all the cotton, put it in the gin, and everything.

Interviewer: Did you like doing these occupations?

Ridgway: Did I like it?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Ridgway: Yes.

Interviewer: You did. How much did you get paid an hour for picking cotton?

[00:07:00]

Ridgway: You didn't get - you'd get paid by the hundred pounds. You'd get maybe 60 cents, or 50 cents a hundred, and I didn't like that. I didn't pick the cotton because I didn't like to pick the cotton because [inaudible 00:07:15] hundred pounds.

Interviewer: Did you ever pick a hundred pounds?

Ridgway: I did pick a hundred pounds, but it would take me all day to pick a hundred pounds. Other people could go out and pick 300, 400. I couldn't.

Interviewer: How many people were around picking cotton?

[00:07:28]

Ridgway: Oh, many, many people. Many people would go out and pick cotton.

Interviewer: All right. You're 14 years old. You've seen the turn of the century, right?

Ridgway: Yes, I did.

Interviewer: What can you remember about the turn of the century that might stand out?

Ridgway: Well, the turn of the century, I probably worked more, [inaudible 00:07:46] after I get my mother out of it. Well, I found out that the white race - I don't like to say this because I'm not against white people, I don't think.

[00:07:59]

But the white race wasn't as generous to Negroes as they are now. Then you faced a kind of disruption in your travels because if they didn't know you, and you a stranger, I'd say I'd go into a place, and I was a stranger. They didn't know me. They knew I was a stranger. Well, they wanted to know what I was doing there, how come I was in here. You know, I'd be looking for work.

[00:08:29]

Well, I've gone many, many, many places, and some places, they didn't allow the black kids in.

Interviewer: What type of places?

Ridgway: Well, the sawmill, let's say, big sawmill. They didn't allow black people there.

Interviewer: Did you ever work in the sawmills?

Ridgway: Yes, I did.

Interviewer: Do you know the name of them?

Ridgway: Well, sure. [Raymond Smith] Lumber Company, and the [Long Beach] Lumber Company, and [Long Branch] Lumber Company.

Interviewer: How old were you when you was doing that?

[00:08:57]

Ridgway: Oh, about 16. 17 then.

Interviewer: What was your girlfriend's name?

Ridgway: Huh?

Interviewer: What was your girlfriend's name?

Ridgway: Lucy [Fullman]. I had one girl, Lucy [Fullman]. I had one named Kitty Hawkins.

Interviewer: What was your best friend's name?

Ridgway: [Boyd Lloyd Harris].

Interviewer: Okay. All right. This is the turn of the century.

Ridgway: Turn of the century.

Interviewer: You are how old you say now?

Ridgway: I was about 16 then.

Interviewer: All right. Where are you living now?

[00:09:33]

Ridgway: Well, I was living at - most of the time being I was living at Millville, Arkansas.

Interviewer: Millville.

Ridgway: Millville, Arkansas.

Interviewer: Did you go to Little Rock at all then?

Ridgway: Yes, I went to Little Rock. I had a sister that lived in Little Rock at that time, but I didn't go there and stay. I just would go and visit her.

Interviewer: All right. When did you move from Arkansas to Kansas City?

[00:09:57]

Ridgway: Oh, I didn't come directly to Kansas City.

Interviewer: Where did you go?

Ridgway: I went to Oklahoma, went to Louisiana, went to Texas, went Oklahoma, went to Tennessee, Jackson, Tennessee, Memphis.

Interviewer: Where did you stay the longest?

Ridgway: Well, I stayed the longest at, I think, Millville, Arkansas. I stayed at Millville. I would leave, and I would go back there.

Interviewer: Who was governor of the state then?

Ridgway: Governor? State governor [Oldham].

Interviewer: Governor [Oldham]. Who was president?

[00:10:30]

Ridgway: You get me there. I don't know whether McKinley [inaudible 00:10:39].

Interviewer: McKinley. Okay. Let me see if I'm getting that on the tape. I'm getting that knock on the tape. All right. Where did you stay longest other than in that town?

[00:10:56]

Ridgway: In that town?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: Well, the longest I've stayed anywhere, in Oklahoma, I believe. I was in Oklahoma maybe about - I didn't stay anywhere very long. I just traveled whole the state.

Interviewer: All right. How old were you when you came to Kansas City?

Ridgway: When I left the state?

Interviewer: When you came to Kansas City?

Ridgway: When I came to Kansas City, I was - I'd say I might have been about 27, 28.

Interviewer: You've been here since you was 28 years old.

[00:11:29]

Ridgway: Yeah, in and out.

Interviewer: What circumstances brought you to Kansas City?

Ridgway: Oh, I don't know. I met a friend, and he and I, and we worked together.

Interviewer: What was his name?

Ridgway: Caesar Morris.

Interviewer: Okay. Go ahead.

Ridgway: And he wanted to come over to Kansas City. And we knew a couple of girls from down in the South, you know, was here. So we decided we'd come over here and see them. So we got over here, and we just got stuck.

[00:12:00]

Interviewer: How did you get stuck?

Ridgway: How'd we get-?

Interviewer: How did you get stuck? Did you find work?

Ridgway: Yes, we found them all. Yeah, we found the girl.

Interviewer: Did you find work?

Ridgway: Yeah, we found work.

Interviewer: What kind of work were you doing?

Ridgway: Well, I first went to work for the railroad, the Santa Fe Railroad. First job I had. The first time I went out and asked for a job, I went out to see the Sante Fe Railroad, and asked them for a job, and I got it.

Interviewer: What were you doing?

Ridgway: I was working on the freight house.

Interviewer: Freight house. How much money did you make an hour?

[00:12:30]

Ridgway: Made 42 cents an hour.

Interviewer: How many hours did you work a day?

Ridgway: Eight.

Interviewer: Eight hours a day. Remember who your foreman was?

Ridgway: Gibson. I don't know the other names, but my foreman was Gibson, but his foreman was named Jessie - I can't think of that foreman's name.

Interviewer: Where did you live?

Ridgway: I lived at the - well, you might say 18th and Campbell.

[00:13:02]

Interviewer: 18th and Campbell.

Ridgway: I lived close to Campbell then.

Interviewer: Okay. Where were all the black people living at that time?

Ridgway: They were living right in that section from 15th Street to Woodland, from Woodland back to Benton Boulevard, and from Benton back to Troost Avenue.

[00:13:29]

But then mostly, people lived back on the avenue, you see, then, back on 5th Street, back down in there.

Interviewer: What about Westport? Were there any black people living out in the Westport area?

Ridgway: Westport. I worked out in the Westport area. Was it Sutherland? It wasn't Sutherland, but there's a lumber company out there, and I used to be the follow up plumbers, you know, and I'd have to go out there and do plumbing work.

[00:14:00]

Ridgway: Were there any black people living out in that area?

Ridgway: White people living out-

Interviewer: Black people?

Ridgway: Yeah, they lived on the hill there.

Interviewer: There were some black people living in Westport.

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you remember their name, any of their names?

Ridgway: No, I didn't know none of their names now. I forget them. I forget their names.

Interviewer: What did you do for entertainment around there?

Ridgway: Oh, what did I do for entertainment?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: Oh, I had plenty of entertainment.

Interviewer: For instance?

Ridgway: We had good nightclubs. We had [inaudible 00:14:25].

Interviewer: What was the name of them? You can't remember the name of them?

[00:14:30]

Ridgway: No. I can't remember the name of them now. But we had good nightclubs. One at 18th and Vine. One at 18th and Brooklyn. One at 12th and Highland, and one at 12th and Woodland, and one at [inaudible 00:14:51] that was black and white, black and tan, I believe it was on the avenue [inaudible 00:14:56]. And then at the auditorium, the old auditorium, they'd have good dances and everything.

[00:15:05]

Interviewer: Who were some of the musicians that played at the dances?

Ridgway: [Van Morgan], and [Van Morgan's] sister. And Charlotte - what was her - what was his name? Cab Calloway, and well, you know, these boys come in. Cab Calloway and also this boy, this guy here not long ago, and I can't think of his name.

[00:15:35]

Interviewer: Charlie Parker.

Ridgway: No. Charlie Parker, he was living here. You know, he played his clubs and places around.

Interviewer: Duke Ellington.

Ridgway: Duke Ellington. They would all come here. All of them boys would come here.

Interviewer: What were you doing when the breakout of World War I?

Ridgway: Oh, I was going home. I was at home then.

Interviewer: How old were you?

[00:15:57]

Ridgway: Let's see. I think I must have been about 20 then, 21. And I wanted to go to the Army. But while I was there, I went down to draft to be drafted, and I went to work for the government, and this fella, a white fella that I was working for [inaudible 00:16:24], and he asked me did I want to go into the Army.

[00:16:29]

I said, sure, I want to go to the Army. I want to go to France and England. He said, "Well," he said, "you don't have to go when you're working for the government." I was making these big timbers for shipment to the El Paso, Texas to build ships. Yeah, I was working in there.

Interviewer: So that's the reason why you didn't go.

Ridgway: That's the reason why I didn't go. I kept trying to go, but I never could get to go because this - you know, he had asked for me not to go.

[00:17:02]

Interviewer: Were there very many black people you saw go?

Ridgway: Yes.

Interviewer: How many would you say?

Ridgway: A good many black people. I couldn't recall the name now.

Interviewer: I mean, what were they doing in the Army?

Ridgway: What were they doing? Well, most of them was doing labor, labor battalion.

Interviewer: Did they have [inaudible 00:17:21] to shoot?

Ridgway: Well, very few of them, you know. Now, my buddy, he was a marksman.

[00:17:28]

Yeah, he was a marksman, yeah. He went around, and a German was up in a tree [inaudible 00:17:36]. They called on him.

Interviewer: They called him. Who was president then?

Ridgway: It was President Wilson then.

Interviewer: What did you think about President Wilson?

Ridgway: Oh, he was good. He was good, you know, in those days and time, but, you know, I'm a democrat, and I always had been a democrat, and lots of people are republican.

[00:17:59]

But I'm a democrat because where I was born and raised, they were all democrats.

Interviewer: Well, what age were you when you professed to be a democrat?

Ridgway: Well, I learned it from a kid. There wasn't nobody else around. There was no republicans. [inaudible 00:18:17] republicans and nothing else.

Interviewer: Well, what happened? The recession, how did that affect you?

[00:18:27]

Ridgway: Well, you know, a youngster, we don't give it no mind, and you take it as it comes anyway. Anyway [inaudible 00:18:35]. You don't tell them what you are in that part of the country. You don't care what you are. You just go down there and vote, vote for this man. This man will help you, and you vote for him. He's a democrat. That's all we knew.

Interviewer: Did you have any trouble voting?

Ridgway: I didn't vote.

Interviewer: Did your father vote?

Ridgway: My father did.

[00:19:00]

Interviewer: He had no problem voting. Did he have any problem?

Ridgway: No, nobody had a problem.

Interviewer: The Depression, it didn't bother you at all?

Ridgway: Depression, well, now I tell you. Now, you don't remember. You didn't worry about the Depression. See, I was in my young days, and there was a depression. I didn't know what a depression was.

[00:19:31]

There was a depression in those days, 19 and - 19 - well, anyhow, there was a little short depression, and that's my first depression. And I was working. I was working in and well, I guess anywhere I could get work, but anyhow, I would get paid off not in money. I would get paid off in scrip. And then I'd have to take all this scrip.

Interviewer: What's scrip?

[00:20:02]

Ridgway: It's something, just a piece of paper. But this company would borrow money from the government. The government would issue on this scrip, and they would pay you in this scrip, and then you could go on to a bank, or go on to a store or somewhere and get cash.

Interviewer: But during prohibition, what happened during prohibition?

Ridgway: Prohibition, well I happened to be right here.

[00:20:28]

I came here, and this has been a while before prohibition [inaudible 00:20:32] about a week or so, a couple of weeks. And prohibition didn't hurt me at all. Only thing that hurt me was I just didn't have [inaudible 00:20:43] like I did.

Interviewer: About how old when you first got a car?

Ridgway: My first car, well, I didn't buy a car until I was - oh, I was 30 years old.

Interviewer: What kind of car was it?

Ridgway: A Dodge.

[00:21:00]

Interviewer: Dodge. What year?

Ridgway: Forty - 38.

Interviewer: 1938. Was it brand new?

Ridgway: No, a used car. You know, you could pick up a good one then.

Interviewer: What did you think of Roosevelt?

Ridgway: Roosevelt, [inaudible 00:21:20] well, I think he's one of the finest presidents that we ever had.

Interviewer: You do? Why do you think that?

[00:21:28]

Ridgway: Well, he was a good Democrat. Yeah, he made it so that things is like it is now.

Interviewer: Did you ever see him?

Ridgway: Yes. Have I ever seen him?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Ridgway: Yeah, sure, I've seen him right here in Kansas City.

Interviewer: When?

Ridgway: It must have been 1929, [inaudible 00:21:52], you know, he made it this way. The banks were busting, the stores was going out and everything, railroads were going out.

[00:22:03]

He made a moratorium on them and stopped them all. And then put this insurance on the banks and everything. Yeah, put it under control on the banks that there wouldn't be no more broken banks. If there was, the money you had in there was insured.

Interviewer: Yeah. Which of the presidents was your favorite president?

Ridgway: Well, I think Roosevelt was my favorite man.

[00:22:30]

And I'll go down next to John Kennedy.

Interviewer: John Kennedy. What did you think of Truman?

Ridgway: Truman, I liked Truman, all right enough. But I tell you, he had kind of a wild idea, you know. He wasn't so much for the blacks. He wasn't so much for the blacks. He talked it all right now, but he wasn't so much form them.

[00:22:58]

Interviewer: Okay. Where were you when Truman was - where were you staying when Truman was president?

Ridgway: What was I saying?

Interviewer: Where were you staying?

Ridgway: Here in Kansas City.

Interviewer: Where were you living in Kansas City?

Ridgway: Oh, I don't know. I think maybe I might have been living on 10th Street, 10th and Campbell.

Interviewer: What'd you think of Eisenhower?

Ridgway: I liked Eisenhower all right enough.

[00:23:27]

But there's many things he could have did for the black race he didn't do.

Interviewer: For instance.

Ridgway: For instance, why, he put a few men in the money in the White House, just a very few, and a very few of the counties and the states, they didn't have it. He didn't make no laws for them to go to get in there at all.

[00:24:02]

Very few people that he treated just as they should have been treated, you know.

Interviewer: What did you think of President Johnson?

Ridgway: President Johnson tried to be. Yeah, he tried to be. But, you know, President Johnson, I don't think he was a very well-educated man.

Interviewer: Why would you say that?

Ridgway: Well he wasn't as high and low as I think he should have been [inaudible 00:24:33].

[00:24:33]

Interviewer: Backing up. Did you ever see Jack Johnson?

Ridgway: Yes, I've seen him twice, I think.

Interviewer: Where?

Interviewer: Here in Kansas City.

Interviewer: Did you see him fight?

Ridgway: No, no, he was out of the fight game. He was promoting.

Interviewer: How did you see him?

Ridgway: Oh, I happened to be down at 18th and Tracy.

[00:25:03]

And it was a club down there, and he was just released from the penitentiary in Leavenworth, and his chauffeur went up there and got him a big - I don't know what kind of car. He had a big car and brought it down here, but he was in the penitentiary.

Interviewer: What was he doing in Leavenworth?

Ridgway: He was doing time.

Ridgway: For what?

[00:25:26]

Ridgway: Well, you know, he fought a fight, and then after he fought this fight in Rio de Janeiro, and he lost. And when he lost, why, then he went to Spain and stayed in Spain for, oh, several years, 10 years, I guess maybe. And then when he came back, they arrested him and put him in jail.

Interviewer: How long was he there?

[00:25:59]

Ridgway: In jail, I think he had about seven, eight years, seven or eight years. But I don't know just exactly whether it was a trumped-up charge or not. You'd have to go back in your archives and find out. But, you know, they didn't like him because he had a white woman and a trumped-up charge.

Interviewer: What was the attitude of black people having white, being married to whites, let's say, when you was 20?

[00:26:31]

Ridgway: Oh well, [inaudible 00:26:32] meet them on the street. That's what they'll do then.

Interviewer: Did you ever go to church here?

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: What church did you go to?

Ridgway: Well, I first belonged to the - well, there was a little church here, United Church between 18th and 19th on Charlotte, and I went there.

[00:27:00]

And then after that church, Reverend [Patton] was pastor, and after that church, then he moved way out south, and I was still living down there. Then I went to going to the Reverend-

Interviewer: We could move on from that. What church do you belong to now?

Ridgway: [inaudible 00:27:24] now.

Interviewer: Reverend Williams is the pastor.

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: How long have you been there?

Ridgway: I've been there since around '36, '37.

[00:27:35]

Interviewer: So you've seen how many pastors? Who was the pastor when you started?

Ridgway: Reverend [Jordan].

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:27:44]

Ridgway: Only two pastors have been there. No, only three pastors have been there. Of course, I knew the other pastor, Reverend Hurst. I knew him and his sons, but I wasn't there.

[00:27:59]

I visited the church when Reverend Hurst was pastor, and then when Reverend Hurst died and Reverend Williams came there, by then I went to that church. But I was in another church at the time of Reverend Hurst.

Interviewer: Who were you baptized? Who were you baptized?

Ridgway: I was baptized before I came here.

Interviewer: Where?

Ridgway: I was baptized in Millville, Arkansas.

Interviewer: Who baptized you?

Ridgway: Reverend [Collins].

Interviewer: Reverend [Collins]. Okay. Did you ever serve in the Armed Forces?

[00:28:31]

Ridgway: No, I never did. That's what I told you. When I wanted to go, they wouldn't let me go.

Interviewer: You said you didn't serve in World War I. Where were you when World War II broke out?

Ridgway: Here.

Interviewer: You was here. What were you doing here?

Ridgway: I was working for the - let's see. I was working. Who was I working for then? I don't know who I was - I was working for the Kansas City Board of Trade, I think.

[00:29:00]

I'd been with the Kansas City Board of Trade about seven or eight years. And I was working for them. And as soon as the war came, then I went to the war - in fact, I found out I couldn't go to the Army, and so I went to the war plant and worked for the war plant, and I worked at the war plant all through the war.

Interviewer: Where was the war plant?

Ridgway: North American Aviation.

Interviewer: That was here in Kansas City?

Ridgway: Yeah. They built that plant here.

Interviewer: Well, where is it now?

[00:29:30]

Ridgway: In California.

Interviewer: Okay. What did you do with North American Aviation?

Ridgway: Well, when I first went there, I was helping on the planes. They would build the planes, and then they would pull these planes out, and they put them in a number 2 department, and I was in that number 2 department, 62 department.

[00:29:56]

And there was white all along these planes because it was mostly mechanics, and then [audio cuts out 00:30:07]. [inaudible 00:30:14] politicians, you know, they used to always give us food and have big dinners, and everything for the [inaudible 00:30:25], all the people. They [inaudible 00:30:27] big dinners and so on like that.

[00:30:31]

Interviewer: Were you able to see him?

Ridgway: Yeah, sure.

Interviewer: I mean, what did he do for black people?

Ridgway: He helped them too.

Interviewer: How did they help them?

Ridgway: Well, there were plenty of black people [inaudible 00:30:43] down at the courthouse, City Hall.

Interviewer: What other Americans do you remember did something for black people?

Ridgway: Well, I think all of the mayors of Kansas City has done pretty well.

[00:30:59]

Because in the last year, you know, these last years has changed since the war. Why, they began to do better, and better, and better, every mayor that come in here.

Interviewer: All right. Again, where were you the day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

Ridgway: Where I was here [inaudible 00:31:22] what I was doing.

Interviewer: How did it affect you?

Ridgway: How did it affect me? Well, I thought I'd want to go and help in the war.

[00:31:33]

Interviewer: Did you really?

Ridgway: Really did. I always wanted to go.

Interviewer: Did any of your friends go?

Ridgway: Yes, they did.

Interviewer: Who were they?

Ridgway: My son went.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah, that's right. Okay. All right. Are you married?

Ridgway: Now?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: Yes.

Interviewer: All right. How many times have you been married?

Ridgway: Three.

Interviewer: Three times. Who was your first wife?

Ridgway: Dorothy [Simms].

Interviewer: Okay. Where did you meet her?

[00:31:58]

Ridgway: In Colorado.

Interviewer: All right. And when were you married?

Ridgway: 1931. I think '31.

Interviewer: Do you have any children?

Ridgway: One.

Interviewer: What was his name?

Ridgway: Rudolph.

Interviewer: Rudolph what?

Ridgway: Ridgway.

Interviewer: Middle name? Did he have a middle name?

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: What was his middle name?

Ridgway: No, he didn't have a middle name.

Interviewer: Okay. Where is he now?

Ridgway: He's dead.

Interviewer: He's dead. How old was he when he passed? How old was he?

[00:32:31]

Ridgway: Nineteen.

Interviewer: What happened?

Ridgway: He got killed in a car accident.

Interviewer: In a car accident. Here in Kansas City?

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Where is Miss Ridgway now?

Ridgway: She's gone. She's passed. Yeah.

Interviewer: Did she pass here in Kansas City?

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. What church were you belonging to then?

Ridgway: I belonged to Saint Stephen.

Interviewer: To Saint Stephen's then. Is that where she was buried?

Ridgway: No. She belonged to - I can't recall it right now.

[00:33:01]

Right out here on 24th and Vine. What is that? She belonged to the Methodist church.

Interviewer: She was a Methodist. All right. Do you remember her mother's name?

Ridgway: No, I can't tell you her mother's name.

Interviewer: Her father's name.

Ridgway: John.

Interviewer: John what?

Ridgway: John [Simms].

Interviewer: John [Simms]. All right. What was her occupation?

Ridgway: She was a - most of the time, though, she was working daywork most of the time.

[00:33:35]

But then she did have employment in these factories [inaudible 00:33:41]. She worked a long time at the [Bennett] plant way out 105th and Paseo or somewhere.

Interviewer: That was a long ways out there. How did she get out there?

[00:33:56]

Ridgway: She had rides. You know, all these big plants built out there in De Soto, all them war plants, they rides there.

Interviewer: De Soto, what's De Soto?

Ridgway: De Soto, that's back up here on the other side of Olathe. Yeah, so there a big bus. They'd make missiles and so on like that, missile [inaudible 00:34:14].

Interviewer: What were the circumstances of her death? How did she die?

Ridgway: My wife?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: She had an operation, tumor.

Interviewer: What hospital did she have it?

Ridgway: Saint [Martin's].

Interviewer: Huh?

Ridgway: Saint [Martin's], Kansas City.

[00:34:30]

Interviewer: All right. Your second wife?

Ridgway: Well, we stayed together about 18.5 years. We was married 18.5 years.

Interviewer: How old were you when you married your second wife? Just as close as you can get.

Ridgway: I guess maybe 45, I think, 45, 46, something like that.

Interviewer: What was her name?

Ridgway: Dorothy.

Interviewer: Dorothy what?

[00:34:59]

Ridgway: Dorothy [Horton].

Interviewer: Okay. What was her mother's name?

Ridgway: What was mother's name? Lucy.

Interviewer: Lucy what?

Ridgway: Lucy [Horton].

Interviewer: Okay. What was her father's name?

Ridgway: That's her mother's name, Lucy.

Interviewer: Lucy. What was her father's name?

Ridgway: Ben.

Interviewer: Ben. Where were they from?

Ridgway: Chetopa, Kansas.

Interviewer: Chetopa, Kansas.

[00:35:30]

Do you have any children by that marriage?

Ridgway: No, we didn't have any children.

Interviewer: No children. All right. Did she pass?

Ridgway: Yeah, she passed.

Interviewer: When did she pass?

Ridgway: In '68.

Interviewer: 1968.

Ridgway: 1968.

Interviewer: All right. Since then you've remarried again, right?

Ridgway: Since then I was married again.

Interviewer: And what's your wife's name now?

Ridgway: Oralee, I'd have to think about their name.

[00:35:56]

Her name was Oralee Roberts.

Interviewer: She's going to be mad at you.

Ridgway: Oralee Roberts.

Interviewer: And she's from Kansas City.

Ridgway: No, Texas.

Interviewer: From where?

Ridgway: Texas.

Interviewer: Where in Texas?

Ridgway: Marshall, Texas.

Interviewer: Okay. She's alive now, right?

Ridgway: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you have any children?

Ridgway: No.

Interviewer: Stepchildren?

Ridgway: She had one boy.

Interviewer: So you just have the one child that died in the car accident?

Ridgway: Uh-huh. And I have a grandchild in Kansas City, Kansas.

[00:36:30]

Interviewer: What's his name?

Ridgway: That was this boy's daughter. Her name is Judith.

Interviewer: What's her last name?

Ridgway: [Simms].

Interviewer: Okay. Do they have children? Does she have children?

Ridgway: No children. She's [inaudible 00:36:44].

Interviewer: You know, looking back over your life, can you tell me maybe one or two things that you can remember that stands out the most in your life that you could - like events that you saw?

Ridgway: Events?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

[00:37:00]

Ridgway: Well, I'll tell you the truth. Now, one of the greatest and the worst events that stood out that I didn't like was that there was a man, and he was an older man, and I was a youngster. But this man was at a dance, and he was a nice-looking man.

[00:37:30]

He was a man. He was a grown man. I guess he was in his 30s or 40s, and he was going with this colored girl, and he wasn't married to her. And this dance, and then the white came to that dance that night, and, you know, they began to snatch this girl because he was dancing, and he was a nice-looking fella too. And he killed one of them fellas.

Interviewer: The white fella?

[00:37:59]

Ridgway: Yeah. And that was Saturday night. And the next Sunday morning, he left the dance all right and went home. [inaudible 00:38:06]. And the next Sunday morning, the news came that they found him hanging on the trestle, you know, railroad trestle, hanging from the trestle dead. That was one of the worst events that I ever thought I - I didn't like that.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Ridgway: That was back in-

Interviewer: About when?

[00:38:28]

Ridgway: About '28, '29, '27, '28.

Interviewer: What did the police do about it?

Ridgway: Well, there was nothing done about it. That was all. That was the end.

Interviewer: Now, what's the best thing you've ever seen?

Ridgway: Well, one of the best things that I thought that I had seen was I believe that - I was - I think it was here in Kansas City or in Oklahoma City.

[00:39:01]

The families came in, in a hard time. People didn't have nothing to eat. They was riding the freight train and going from place to place. There was a real depression, and I mean, it was a depression. And the family didn't have anything to eat or any place to stay. And the people, the black people didn't have anything much to give them.

[00:39:29]

So the white people were taking it up and taking care of these families, and sending them back to Alabama or Mississippi, one of the places where they were because there was no work and nowhere to go, and they were just drifting, drifting, looking for work. And I thought that was one of the best things, events of my life that I'd seen. And for them to take it up themselves, and make the money, and send them back to Mississippi. I believe it was Mississippi.

[00:39:59]

Interviewer: What did you think about the airplane?

Ridgway: Airplane? I think the airplane was fine. I worked on the airplane.

Interviewer: I mean, what did you think about it when it first was invented?

Ridgway: Well, I thought it was a great invention, I really did.

Interviewer: Did you think that they had actually invented an airplane?

Ridgway: Yes, sure.

Interviewer: What did you think when you heard about a man walking on the moon?

Ridgway: Oh, I looked for it. Somebody said, oh, you [inaudible 00:40:20]. I said, I believe it will. I said an airplane flies. I believed it.

Interviewer: You believed it.

Ridgway: Yes, sure.

Interviewer: What did you think of the Hindenburg?

Ridgway: Hindenburg.

[00:40:32]

Well, it blew up.

Interviewer: What was your impression?

Ridgway: What was my impression? My impression was that I believe it was a - it wasn't just itself blew up. I think that it was some instigation. They didn't want it in the United States.

[00:41:00]

They didn't want it in the United States because they had asked - the Germans had asked for helium gas to supply them, so they could have this ship. But the American people never would say they would give them the helium gas. So the first chance, they invited [inaudible 00:41:22] over here.

Interviewer: What did you think of Jesse Owens?

[00:41:29]

Ridgway: Jesse Owens was one of the finest, outstanding men there ever was. I tried to get [inaudible 00:41:33].

Interviewer: You liked Jesse Owens?

Ridgway: I liked him.

Interviewer: What did you think of - let me see. Who was the greatest boxer you ever saw?

Ridgway: Well, the greatest boxer that I saw was the Brown Bomber.

Interviewer: Better than Jack Johnson?

[00:41:58]

Ridgway: Well, I never did see his fights. You know his fights wasn't on television. Jack Johnson's fights wasn't on television. They was just on radio. Or you could just get the word. So I never did get a chance to see him fight.

Interviewer: Did you ever think that black people would live past 27th Street?

Ridgway: Really, I didn't. I thought they would. Yeah, I thought they would. I know when the first one moved across 27th Street, I was here in Kansas City then, and the first moved across 27th and Paseo out there.

[00:42:30]

They moved over there in that [inaudible 00:42:31]. That Saturday night, the house got [inaudible 00:42:36]. But I didn't think that it would grow as fast because, you know, black people then, they didn't want them any further than that. They set the deadline, but every time they set a deadline, they'd go over their deadline. They began to push, push, push back some.

[00:42:58]

Interviewer: Let me ask you this. When was the first time you voted in an election?

Ridgway: When was the first time I voted? I believe the first time I voted was in 1928.

Interviewer: For who?

Ridgway: I don't know just exactly who I was hoping for then. I really don't know. I think it was a republican or democrat mayor.

Interviewer: Did you vote for Roosevelt?

[00:43:31]

Ridgway: Yes.

Interviewer: Both the Roosevelts?

Ridgway: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: How about Taft?

Ridgway: Taft?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: I didn't vote for Taft.

Interviewer: Hardy?

Ridgway: Hardy, I voted for Hardy.

Interviewer: Eisenhower?

Ridgway: Eisenhower, I voted for Eisenhower.

Interviewer: Truman?

Ridgway: Truman, I voted for. Yeah, I voted for Truman.

Interviewer: What did you think of Adlai Stevenson?

Ridgway: Adlai Stevenson was a good man, I thought always. He was a good political leader in that state, in Illinois.

[00:44:00]

But I don't think he had the capability of just of foreign aid.

Interviewer: What do you think of Henry Ford?

Ridgway: Henry Ford, the automobile?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: Well, I think he did a wonderful job. Yeah. Henry Ford did a wonderful job because [inaudible 00:44:19]. Henry Ford [inaudible 00:44:22] responsible for the automobiles of today. Yeah, because he made a car that wasn't so high, wasn't too expensive, didn't burn too much gas.

[00:44:35]

The others, Buick, Cadillac, and the others, they high-priced cars. He made it possible for the little man. Yeah. And then on top of that, he made it possible for the little man to get a job in the factory.

Interviewer: Did you ever work in his factory?

Ridgway: No, I didn't.

Interviewer: Did you ever work in the building industry at all?

Ridgway: Building?

[00:45:00]

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: Oh, just up north.

Interviewer: What buildings did you see built that you maybe worked on?

Ridgway: I didn't work on any buildings that - I see buildings today, and I didn't work on any of these buildings, you know. I just worked with small buildings, small contractors. I worked mostly inside work.

Interviewer: Going back to when you were 30 years old, no, we'll say 25, what kind of clothes were you wearing?

Ridgway: What kind of clothes was I wearing?

[00:45:28]

Well, I was wearing the same thing I'm wearing now. When I was 25 years, I had a [bell bottom], [straight front], and a box back coat.

Interviewer: Box back coat. What kind of dance were you doing?

Ridgway: I was doing the Foxtrot and [inaudible 00:45:51], Charleston.

Interviewer: Could you do it?

Ridgway: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

[00:46:00]

Interviewer: What do you think of Benny Goodman?

Ridgway: Benny Goodman, fine. He's a nice guy.

Interviewer: Did you ever see him?

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: You ever hear him play?

Ridgway: Yeah.

Interviewer: What do you think of Billie Holiday?

Ridgway: I heard him once or twice. Yeah, I think he's nice. He had nice music.

Interviewer: Who was your favorite musician?

Ridgway: Duke Ellington.

[00:46:28]

Interviewer: Duke Ellington was your favorite. And you did get to see him?

Ridgway: Yeah. You see, they all used to come here to Kansas City Municipal Auditorium.

Interviewer: What did you think of Richard Nixon?

Ridgway: There's something about Nixon that I didn't like as a president. I don't know what it was.

Interviewer: What about as vice president?

Ridgway: Vice president? I don't think he done such a swell job as the vice president. He just [inaudible 00:46:55] the country. And he went to Russia once.

[00:46:59]

And he and Khrushchev got into it over there in the Colosseum and show - you know, the American show and everything he was telling about the kitchen or something [inaudible 00:47:11].

Interviewer: Well, what do you think about the Watergate?

Ridgway: Watergate? Well, [inaudible 00:47:19] because he was just vice president then. And then he would go over to Russia, but ever since then, why, when he got to be president, he got to be a dictator. He felt like he was dictator.

[00:47:35]

Interviewer: Do you believe there were any other presidents that could have been dictator?

Ridgway: Do I think the president - no. I don't think they would ever allow it in this country. They would have killed him. I don't think they'd allow it in this country. [inaudible 00:47:50]

Interviewer: Do you remember-

Ridgway: They don't want a president in this country to have too much power, say go, say come, say not to do this, say do this. But Nixon is very lucky that he didn't get assassinated.

[00:48:03]

Interviewer: What do you think about the Taft-Hartley Act? Do you remember anything about that?

Ridgway: I didn't read up too much on that. I read it, but I didn't read up too much on it.

Interviewer: Let's see. Well, after - well, you said that you didn't know anything - you didn't recall anything about the Taft-Hartley Act.

[00:48:28]

Ridgway: [inaudible 00:48:29] I read about it, but I didn't keep it in mind. Yeah, that's the only thing. I read about it, but I didn't-

Interviewer: What are some of the types of jobs that you've had?

Ridgway: Well me?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: I have had lots of jobs. I don't know what kind of jobs I've had. I've had railroad, lumber mills, cotton mills.

[00:49:00]

Interviewer: In Kansas City, what have you done?

Ridgway: Oh, well, the first job I had when I came to Kansas City, I worked for the railroad, the Santa Fe Railroad.

Interviewer: The Sante Fe Railroad. What was your last type of employment?

Ridgway: Well, the last job that I worked at was - well, let's see. [Castro] Company. They're not in business anymore. I worked for them 16.5 years.

[00:49:31]

Interviewer: What did you do with them?

Ridgway: Well, I was a kind of window dresser, you know, put the dressing in the window.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah?

Ridgway: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: What did you do before then?

Ridgway: What did I do? Well, I worked for North American Aviation before then.

Interviewer: Here in Kansas?

Ridgway: In Kansas City.

Interviewer: How did you lose your fingers?

Ridgway: I lost them in an automobile factory.

Interviewer: Lost two fingers in an automobile factory. What happened?

Ridgway: Oh, I was running a press.

[00:50:00]

Have you ever worked in a factory?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Ridgway: You know what these presses is then. See, the bumpers used to be that they had the three little cuffs, and they fastened them on. See, the bumpers just - they fastened that bumper right on to the frame, you know. Yeah. Well, I was making them cuffs. That's what I pressed. You press them.

[00:50:30]

You have an automatic press, and all you do is sit there, and you have your stuff. You see, the guy in front of you and stuff is cutting in the length. Well, then you put it right up here, and it slides right on through, you see. And when it gets here, why, I had a little piece of iron. It was made for that, and you knock it off, you see. Knock it off. And too much pressure.

[00:51:01]

And the press repeated and just caught them two fingers, bam, bam, caught them two fingers.

Interviewer: What did you do after that?

Ridgway: What did I do then? Well I just got - I had a pair of gloves on.

Interviewer: I'm talking about where did you go after you left that job?

Ridgway: What did I do after then? Oh, I don't know. I went to work outside for people.

[00:51:33]

Interviewer: Did you have any cause to bump shoulders with, let's say, Dr. Bryant here in Kansas City?

Ridgway: Who?

Interviewer: Dr. G.T. Bryant.

Ridgway: Bryant?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Ridgway: I don't believe so. I don't believe-

Interviewer: Well, what about Lawrence Blankinship?

Ridgway: No, I really didn't know Lawrence Blakinship until he, you know, went into business.

[00:52:01]

Interviewer: Who were some of the prominent blacks?

Ridgway: Miller, Dr. Miller, Dr. D.W. Brown, Dr. - [knocking sound]. Come on.

Interviewer: Who else?

Ridgway: Dr. [D.M. Miller], Dr.[Hook], Dr. [inaudible 00:52:27]

[00:52:30]

Interviewer: Well, who were some of the political, let's say, people, blacks that were in the political movement?

[00:52:55]

Ridgway: Well, in the political world was - well, I can't describe it now. I got out of that a long time ago. Now when I first came here, I kind of worked with my precinct captain.

Interviewer: Who was that?

Ridgway: Oh, I forget his name now. But anyhow, after that, why, he got killed...

Interviewer: What about Leon Jordan?

Ridgway: ...in northeast side on the west side.

[00:53:32]

He ended up on the hill [inaudible 00:53:35] a long time ago. How did he get killed? You know how political deals work, you know.

Interviewer: Who was it? You can't remember what his name was?

Ridgway: No, I can't remember the boy's name. He was a youngster. He was a youngster. He was a real nice guy. And I worked with him a lot, you know canvassing.

Interviewer: What about Leon Jordan?

Ridgway: I didn't work for him. I knew him all right enough.

[00:54:01]

Interviewer: What kind of person was he?

Ridgway: He was a fine guy. Yeah, he was a fine guy. Yeah, I knew him, and I knew his brother. I was shipped out of here once to Mansfield, Louisiana. Yeah, by his brother. He lived in Kansas City, Kansas, on 4th Street, Leon Jordan's brother.

[00:54:32]

Interviewer: Well, what about McKinley Neal?

Ridgway: McKinley Neal. Young McKinley?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Ridgway: I worked with him too. I worked with McKinley in North American Aviation. Yeah, he and I were-

Interviewer: No, I'm speaking of the McKinley Neal that owns the drugstore.

Ridgway: Own the drugstore?

Interviewer: That was state representative.

Ridgway: Oh, Neal, no, I've met him, but I didn't know him personally.

[00:55:03]

Interviewer: What did you-

Ridgway: Stevens, I met Stevens, and I met - what's this lawyer over there? I used to go to Chicago all the time, and I used to go up to his cousin. I believe she was his cousin. I used to go up to her house all the time. She'd always ask me when I come up when had I seen him. Oh, I can't recall his name now. You know it's been so long sometime [inaudible 00:55:31].

[00:55:32]

Interviewer: What about Reverend Holmes?

Ridgway: Reverend Holmes, I was always around Reverend Holmes.

Interviewer: Did you ever go to his church?

Ridgway: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: What type of a speaker was he?

Ridgway: Speaker, he was good. Good. He was a good speaker.

Interviewer: What type of individual did you-

Ridgway: Huh?

Interviewer: What type of a person did he seem to be?

Ridgway: Well, he seemed to be a real [inaudible 00:55:50] person.

Interviewer: Do you see where he did anything for black people in Kansas City?

Ridgway: Yeah, he always tried to, but, you know, now, he wasn't in politics. He was a preacher.

[00:56:00]

But any time that any people in that the community out there from 18th and Vine, back, why, if they get in trouble, [inaudible 00:56:12] or anything like that, Reverend Holmes would go down, and he'd [inaudible 00:56:16]. He was always good about that.

Interviewer: What are some more pastors' names that were prominent?

Ridgway: Well, let's see.

[00:56:30]

Now, they didn't [inaudible 00:56:31] many of the pastors, you know, [inaudible 00:56:35] out here, and go to church down on Charlotte, 18th and Charlotte, but he was pretty nice for his people, you see. And then Reverend Hurst, the man that organized this church that I belong to, now, he always stood up for his people.

[00:56:57]

But just to go out for the people in the community, Reverend Holmes was about the best. And then there used to be a preacher. I used to go to his church over in Kansas City, Kansas, on 3rd Street. Reverend [McNeely]. I don't guess you've heard of him. He's been gone a long time.

Interviewer: What kind of reverend was he?

Ridgway: Huh?

Interviewer: What kind of a preacher was he?

Ridgway: Well, he was nice. He was a nice preacher.

Interviewer: Baptist, Protestant?

Ridgway: Baptist.

Interviewer: Baptist. Did you ever see Satchel Paige play?

Ridgway: Yeah, sure. I've seen him play right out here.

Interviewer: With who?

Ridgway: With the Monarchs.

[00:57:30]

Interviewer: With the monarchs. Tell me about the Monarchs.

Ridgway: Well, the Monarchs was a good team back in there. They was all colored. No white. And they had - they were in the American Association, and they had nine teams, I believe, at Chicago, and Alabama, and Memphis and-

[00:58:02]

Well, anyhow, they was a good team, but they just played them on their own nine teams. And they had good players too in those days. Yeah.

Interviewer: Who else? Can you remember any of the players' names?

Ridgway: Well, yes. Duncan, Frank Duncan. He was the catcher.

Interviewer: Was he good?

[00:58:29]

Ridgway: Oh, was he good? He was the best. And let's see. [inaudible 00:58:36] over on Kansas City, Kansas. And he died. He died last year. And [Rupper], the second baseman. He left here and went to - I'm trying to think of that boy's name now, but he left here.

Interviewer: Did they pack the stands pretty good?

Ridgway: Huh?

Interviewer: Did they pack the stands pretty good?

[00:58:57]

Ridgway: Yes. Yeah. Their biggest game would be when Rube Foster would come here from Chicago. He'd bring his team here, and Rube would never want his team to lose, you know, but he couldn't beat the Monarchs.

Interviewer: Couldn't beat them.

Ridgway: Couldn't beat them. Yeah. Well, some of the players is still around here now.

Interviewer: Did you ever play with them?

[00:59:26]

Ridgway: Did I ever play? No, I didn't play. I just played, you know, just ball in the field in the park.

Interviewer: What park did everybody go to?

Ridgway: What park did they play in? They played in-

Interviewer: I mean what park did all the people go to have a good time?

Ridgway: Well, in that day, well, they either went to Swope Park or went out here Paseo.

Interviewer: Oh, blacks were allowed at Swope Park?

Ridgway: Yeah. They'd go out there. They always did go out there. They'd go out there.

Interviewer: The whole park?

Ridgway: The barbecue pits and everything.

Interviewer: The whole park or just Watermelon Hill?

[01:00:03]

Ridgway: Well, so far as it was, they could go anywhere in the park, you know. Yeah, they could go anywhere in the park.

Interviewer: What side of town was the black side of town?

[recording ends]