

**Transcript of an Oral History Interview in the collection of the
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922**

Roz Foster: Good morning.

Mr. McKenzie: Good morning.

Roz Foster: We're interviewing Mr. Raleigh McKenzie this morning in Mims, Florida. Mr. McKenzie, where did you come from, where was your family from?

Mr. McKenzie: My family all from South Carolina. Two places, at Kingstree and Tillman, South Carolina.

Roz Foster: Tillman, South Carolina.

Mr. McKenzie: In Tillman, South Carolina.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: I was bred and born over here in the Jamestown. Over to [Oviedo? 00:00:37].

Roz Foster: You were born in Jamestown? *[Might mean Maytown?]*

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Oh.

Mr. McKenzie: That used to be Volusia County.

Roz Foster: Volusia County.

Mr. McKenzie: Yes, right. They break the county up and put another county, made Seminole County, made it a county, too. Maytown is where I was bred and born at.

Roz Foster: At Maytown.

[00:01:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, so about 17, 18 miles from here.

Roz Foster: Oh. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Mr. McKenzie: There was 8 brothers and 1 sister.

Roz Foster: What year were you born?

Mr. McKenzie: Me?

Roz Foster: Yes.

Mr. McKenzie: 1906.

Roz Foster: And when's your birthday?

Mr. McKenzie: The 6th of January.

Roz Foster: Oh, right after Christmas.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What do you remember about Maytown? What did Maytown look like when you were a child? Do you remember?

Mr. McKenzie: Maytown was a great turpentine place. It made turpentine and with convicts, prisoners.

Roz Foster: Uh-huh.

Mr. McKenzie: That's why the train came from this way from Titusville [00:01:50] to Mims and go out to Maytown, that's as far as that one go, that train go and make a turnaround there, and one would come from uh, oh I can't think of the name.
[00:02:00]

Roz Foster: Enterprise.

Mr. McKenzie: Enterprise Junction.

Roz Foster: Enterprise Junction.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. Meet it there, they had a meeting for it, so they train would meet together, make the turnaround there and it was a big turpentine still and all.

Roz Foster: Do you remember what the turpentine still was? The name of it?

Mr. McKenzie: The turpentine still?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Name of Clark.

Roz Foster: Clark?

Mr. McKenzie: Clark.

Roz Foster: Clark's turpentine still?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: The prisoners worked there.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, they had the convicts see. They put the camp there.

Roz Foster: That was under the convict leasing system.

Mr. McKenzie: That's what got all the turpentine. See the way prisoners, the big prisoner camp, guess they had about 3 or 400 there.

Roz Foster: That big?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. It was a penitentiary.

Roz Foster: That was located at Maytown?

[00:03:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Right, Maytown, and that's where they get all the prisoners would work on the turpentine for the guild and saw mill was there.

Roz Foster: What was the name of the saw mill? Do you remember?

Mr. McKenzie: One of them named [inaudible 00:03:14]. He lived at Penny Shore. Saw mill that place was called Penny Shore. About 3 miles from Maytown going west. Going south and a big shingle mill called, oh Lord, that been gone so long I can hardly think of that.

Roz Foster: That's all right. That's all right. Well over at Maytown, were there any stores. What was actually at Maytown?

Mr. McKenzie: They called them commissary.

Roz Foster: A commissary.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: A company store, huh?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Were there any churches over there at the time?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, they had churches there.

[00:04:00]

Roz Foster: What were their names? Do you remember any of them?

Mr. McKenzie: They had one church there. It was an AME church. That's where the people go to that one church.

Roz Foster: One church? Do you remember who the pastor was at that time?

Mr. McKenzie: No, see I was a kid, then.

Roz Foster: Yeah. What did you used to do? Did you go to school there? Did they have a school?

Mr. McKenzie: No, they didn't have no school there. No school at the jail. My daddy, decided he'd move from Maytown and moved here to Mims.

Roz Foster: What year was that, about?

Mr. McKenzie: That was in 19, must have been 1915 or 16. See my daddy got rattle snake bit in 1910, so he couldn't work. He wasn't able to do nothing. The county gave my dad a, you know, so much a month.
[00:05:00]

Roz Foster: Like a pension, a monthly pension?

Mr. McKenzie: That's right. He came here and we ended up working for a fellow called Dray.

Roz Foster: Dray.

Mr. McKenzie: Dray.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: I worked for him and he sent us out to South Mims. We stayed out there for quite a few years.

Roz Foster: Out off of 46?

Mr. McKenzie: That's right.

Roz Foster: Okay. What was South Mims like?

Mr. McKenzie: South Mims?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: (laughs)

Roz Foster: What was South Mims like?

Mr. McKenzie: I hate to tell you, wasn't nobody on South Mims really. Just a few people.

Roz Foster: Do you remember any of the families that lived there, the names?

[00:06:00]

Mr. McKenzie: On South Street?

Roz Foster: Yeah. Oh on South Street.

Mr. McKenzie: You mean on, on the collar road? Them Cuyler over there. There was two set of Cuyler over there.

Roz Foster: Paul and Bentley?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. Old man Jeff Cuyler used to deal with that road, and old man Bentley Cuyler, the daddy. Yeah. That was all right in that neighborhood right there then, then a storm come up through there. They were living down there. That was the only house on the Kyle Road, come up there. That was the only one a little through it right in there. It come on down and close by the Methodist church. I guess it must be about 1200 people living all the way down through there. Another 15 at Hyde. They was going to school.

[00:07:00]

[00:08:00]

I had to work. I couldn't get no school in. I went to school about 2 days a week. Then once I got to go, I had to try to work, take care of my daddy. The wages wasn't nothing. It wasn't paying nothing, working in that [inaudible 00:07:55]. They was a paying about, he was paying a dollar bill. I was making 50 cent a day. Before I get board wages.

Roz Foster: Oh my.

Mr. McKenzie: And then wasn't getting but a dollar.

Roz Foster: And you helped to build the roads?

Mr. McKenzie: Huh?

Roz Foster: You helped build roads?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, I helped build roads.

Roz Foster: Did you build the road that goes from Mims to the St. John's River?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: 46?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Did you help build that road?

Mr. McKenzie: I was working with a fellow called Michael. G.W. Michael. He was a road builder. I worked with him.

Roz Foster: What did you build the roads out of? Do you remember?

Mr. McKenzie: It was coquina rock.

Roz Foster: Coquina rock. Do you remember where you got the rock from?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, down there at Indian River City.

Roz Foster: Indian River City.

[00:09:00]

Mr. McKenzie: They got a big pit right there, up there.

Roz Foster: Uh-huh.

Mr. McKenzie: And a pit right down the way there by the car there, a big pit right there. That's where we go the rock. The rock crusher. You know you'd get this rock in big piece and had a rock crusher to break it up in pieces like that and haul it on the road. When there was a man working there called, what was his name? Mr. Kaiser. They had the rock from Kaiser, Mr. Kaiser, he was a former rock crusher, you see. My friend P.W. Robert, he was a county commissioner. I don't mean little P.W. Junior. I'm talking about his daddy.

[00:10:00]

Roz Foster: His daddy.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. Little P.W., he lived up the road there. He had a sister that lived right across the grass, right over there.

Roz Foster: Miss Lilly.

Mr. McKenzie: Right through here was actually woods. Straight woods, wasn't no houses.

Roz Foster: Do you ...

Mr. McKenzie: It was just rough here.

Roz Foster: Do you remember out on the old Warren estate, out on Dixie, the old Warren estate, do you remember Joe Warren?

Mr. McKenzie: Old man Joe?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Joe and Cider Warren?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Them were brothers.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Do you remember where the old Warren estate was on Old Dixie and do you remember ever being when you were young, a little school house there on Dixie?

[00:11:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, I went to school, I went to school there. That's where you had to go to school. We had to leave from here and walk down there. The school, because all the kids were living on this end, but no kids down there. Old man cider Warren, he was in school and Joe Warren. Cider and Joe they were the big wheels here.

Roz Foster: Oh. Do you remember, who did you go to school with down there? Can you remember any of their names?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh, miss every so long, I forget lots of that.

Roz Foster: Yeah, do you ever remember a church being on that property? A church down there, on that same property?

Mr. McKenzie: No, there wasn't no church down there as I remember. The only church out here
[00:12:00] the St. James church. They had it up there, on the hill.

Roz Foster: Now when you refer to the hill, this is where the old St. James church was, right? Where are you referring to, up on the hill?

Mr. McKenzie: Where?

Roz Foster: The location where the old St. James church was? You said it was on a hill? Where is that?

Mr. McKenzie: Well, I'm fixing to tell you now.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: They moved the church off the hill, you know where the barber shop there in Mims? The white barber shop on the hill? You know those two big houses sitting there? They're straight back from the barber shop. That's where the St. James church was sitting up there on that hill.

Roz Foster: Oh.

Mr. McKenzie: Then they moved St. James church and moved it where it's at. That was in 1925,

[00:13:00] and the real estate been here, local real estate and they bought them out and moved that church down here. And that's where the church was located.

Roz Foster: They actually moved the little wooden church down to where the church is now?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Oh. Did you attend that church when it was the little wooden church?

Mr. McKenzie: No, it was a good-sized church. I was a Methodist. We attended church up here right across the road.

Roz Foster: Shiloh?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Uh-huh.

Mr. McKenzie: That was our church.

Roz Foster: Do you remember when St. James Church that stands today was built? Do you remember when that was built, under Reverend Massey was it built? The new church, the new St. James?

Mr. McKenzie: Reverend Massey?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. See they had another pastor there, before Massey's come there. Massey's been a moderator you see. People was paying him so good, so Massey took the church himself. He took the church and he built it up, to a bigger church. The buildings you see behind there were, that was it in that neighborhood.

[00:14:00]

Roz Foster: How about center city? What was downtown? I understand there were some shops downtown, some stores?

Mr. McKenzie: Stores, yeah. There was more grocery stores down there then there is now.

Roz Foster: Do you remember who ran the grocery store?

Mr. McKenzie: Yes. The Green brothers run one, where the old post office used to be, and [Dray's 00:14:56] run one, right there by the red light, so the [inaudible 00:15:00] run there another store right where [Sharp 00:15:05] got that spot now. But three grocery stores here then. Didn't have to worry about getting groceries 'cause all three of them had groceries. [Dray 00:15:17] mostly was the meat market. Green Brothers, they would sell merchandise, clothes and also [inaudible 00:15:29] food and all like that. We had big saw mills in here.

[00:15:00]

Roz Foster: Oh, who ran the saw mill? Where was it located? Where was the saw mill located and what was the name of the saw mill?

Mr. McKenzie: You know where the white Baptist church across the railroads, right?

Roz Foster: Yes.

Mr. McKenzie: There was a saw mill there, 2 saw mills over there.

Roz Foster: On 46?

[00:16:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, just as you cross the railroad track. There's 2 saw mills there. There was a regular saw mill and one was a crating [00:16:10] mill and one where the exchange is, was a saw mill. There was 3 saw mills in here.

Roz Foster: The crating mill, was that run by Mr. Joe Warren?

Mr. McKenzie: No, no.

Roz Foster: Who ran the crating?

Mr. McKenzie: Chase & Company.

Roz Foster: Chase & Company?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay, they had the crating mill and it was about where Nevins packing house is or the food exchange?

Mr. McKenzie: It was right across there, they was close together there. Right across from the Baptist church. The white Baptist church.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: There were 2 saw mills right in there.

Roz Foster: Right in there.

Mr. McKenzie: It was, there was a packing house in there, too.

Roz Foster: That was the Blue Goose packing house.

Mr. McKenzie: No, it was before the Blue Goose come in here.

[00:17:00]

Roz Foster: Oh, it was there before the Blue Goose came in.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: That's a long time ago. Do you remember what packing house that was?

Mr. McKenzie: The name is Miles.

Roz Foster: Miles?

Mr. McKenzie: That's right.

Roz Foster: Miles Packing House.

Mr. McKenzie: You see, you had to haul the fruit by horse and wagon.

Roz Foster: Oh, my goodness. Where did they used to take it? Where did they take the fruit to be sold by horse and wagon?

Mr. McKenzie: Well you see here down here on the road, was two packing house down there, on the road out here.

Roz Foster: Yeah?

Mr. McKenzie: See Chase and Company owned the packing house down here on the river.

Roz Foster: J.J.?

Mr. McKenzie: No, no.

Roz Foster: No?

Mr. McKenzie: That was called Terwilliger. A.C. Terwilliger.

Roz Foster: Terwilliger. Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: That's right. The other was Chase and Company. Chase, he sold out. He went out of business. They didn't have but just a few groves [00:17:56] in here before they had to carry the [sample?] and they had to go down to New Smyrna and go in and shell. [00:18:00] That road wasn't completed because it was so bad if you traveled. It had a high bridge like that most of that, so they had to figure out another way to ago around, and it was rough. They [inaudible], gave them a nickel a box.

Roz Foster: A nickel a box?

Mr. McKenzie: A nickel a box.

Roz Foster: Oh, boy. Did you work in the groves?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah I worked in the groves. I'll tell you now I didn't get but 50 cent an hour, a day.

Roz Foster: Ooh. Do you remember Frank Bell and Mr. Strickland?

Mr. McKenzie: Henry Strickland?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. He did all lived up in there where the Cuyler's [00:18:55] was. They were the big shots, see.

Roz Foster: They were the big shots.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. They were the big shots.

[00:19:00]

Roz Foster: Did they used to runt the groves? Were they like a grove superintendents?

Mr. McKenzie: No.

Roz Foster: No?

Mr. McKenzie: Paul Cuyler [00:19:05] and them, they had owned their own groves.

Roz Foster: They owned their own groves?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. They had owned 15 to 20 acres, so that way they could sell. They didn't have to work for nobody. [00:19:21]

Roz Foster: I see. Did they own the groves all where approximately where the Cuyler Center is built now? All in that area?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Was that their grove?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, all that's their grove. They owned all of that. Yeah, they owned all that. They got all that. See they got old, they dug up the trees. His daughter and they come in and the trees got so old and die out and they replanted it since they got grown. Before and they was dead, then. It was rough.

[00:20:00]

Roz Foster: It was hard work, wasn't it.

Mr. McKenzie: It was hard work.

Roz Foster: What did you used to do when a freeze was coming?

Mr. McKenzie: When a freeze come?

Roz Foster: What is fire in a grove called? How do you fire a grove?

Mr. McKenzie: Well we fired a grove to try to save the trees.

Roz Foster: How was that done?

Mr. McKenzie: You just have, you go out and cut wood, bring it and put it in the grove. You put about 6 pieces of wood in heavy soil. That will take care of 4 trees. Some trees you lose, some you didn't. It makes [inaudible 00:20:46] they move from there and went to making a heater, using oil.

Roz Foster: Oil.

[00:21:00]

Mr. McKenzie: See. One of them heaters [inaudible 00:20:58] and that heater, it would get so hot you had to come out of there. You come out of that grove. You find a cool place, and then you go back through there and the heaters was going 7 to 8 hours and you go back and refuel them, see. Have them for the next night. I guess, very little sleep you got when it was cold. Very little.

Roz Foster: Do you remember Kelly's Turpentine still over on US 1?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, right over there. I was going there.

Roz Foster: About what year was Kelly's in operation? Do you remember?

[00:22:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Kelly turpentine still [00:22:00]? Mr. [inaudible 00:22:02]. No. That's been a long time. Yeah.

Roz Foster: Did it burn down? What happened to it?

Mr. McKenzie: No it didn't burn down. They just tore it down then and put a block plant there.

Roz Foster: Tore it down and put a block plant there.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. Then Lucas Brothers, they got hold of that. Right up there across the, it's [inaudible 00:22:39] up there now, so they got in it. They got to sell that in a big grove. 110 or 15 acres of grove in there. The Lucas Brothers.

Roz Foster: The Lucas Brothers. They put groves in instead of turpentine.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

[00:23:00]

Roz Foster: How about, do you remember when the Masonic Lodge was a school here?

Mr. McKenzie: Who?

Roz Foster: The Masonic Lodge over on Main Street? They held school at the Masonic Lodge. Do you remember that?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, right down on the corner, by the Methodist church. Yes. They were trying to move that school that Warren had [00:23:25]. They was the boss at school. They wouldn't let us go to school too much. See they had a bunch of cane. They put these boys from North Mims up in there, and the other guy came from to keep the hired help. That's how they got their wage earned.

Roz Foster: I see. The people that went to school over on the Warren estate, they took care of the cane?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

[00:24:00]

Roz Foster: They cut the cane, so they didn't go to school on a regular basis, then?

Mr. McKenzie: None but the Warrens. The [Campbells 00:24:02]. The Campbells, they had a little money. They didn't have to worry about nothing. But Warren, they used everybody from this end to get their cane and grind it. You boil it.

Roz Foster: I see.

Mr. McKenzie: Then later one they're talking about moving the school, they had a fit. His daughter couldn't come to the school up here. My mother was working for, I can't remember, the Nichols, right on 46th. The first house. The old house is there now. [00:25:00] The house must be 70, 80 years old, now. He was a cattle man and he told my mother to get him \$50. He'd have the school moved. That's how come the school's right where it's at today. My mother went around and beg up money from the people on this end and they moved that school and put it here.

Then Warren said their children wasn't going to that school up there. Yeah, and they were going to the Mason Hall [00:25:37] at the time. It was right there on the corner. Yeah. Sat on the corner of 46th and Main Street. A few people living around.

[00:26:00]

Roz Foster: So they, so they moved the school from the Warren estate up to Mims and that was the Mims Negro School, as I understand.

Mr. McKenzie: That's right.

Roz Foster: Okay, and then they went to the Masonic Lodge to school?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah they went to the Masonic Lodge, the school. They had to go to Masonic Lodge. Every children had to pay, the people had to pay about \$2 a week, or something or other, for them to go to school at the Masonic Lodge, 'till they get that school built.

Roz Foster: 'Till thy got the school built. What time period? Was this in the '30s?

Mr. McKenzie: Ma'am?

Roz Foster: Was this in the 30s? 1930s or 1920s?

Mr. McKenzie: Somewhere in the '20s.

Roz Foster: Okay. Let me ask you this. What did you do for school books?

Mr. McKenzie: They had no school books. Had a wall.

Roz Foster: You didn't have no school books?

[00:27:00]

Mr. McKenzie: No, not for the colored. That's why there was kicking on about the school down there to Warrens. Because all the children was on this end, in Mims, and to walk down there to school, the Warrens. Ain't had no school bus. I don't remember about it.

Roz Foster: Do you remember, was your teacher Mrs. Tate?

Mr. McKenzie: Ma'am?

Roz Foster: Was your teacher a Mrs. Tate? Do you remember a teacher called Mrs. Tate?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh yeah, I knew him.

Roz Foster: Remember? What do you remember about Mr. Tate?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh, he was on the Warren's side. He do just what the Warrens say do.

Roz Foster: Well what were your subjects that he taught you?

Mr. McKenzie: Ma'am?

Roz Foster: What were some of the subjects that he taught you? Reading, writing and

'rythmatic?

[00:28:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. Just like I said, I couldn't go to school but just a very little bit. I had to work.

Roz Foster: Uh-huh.

Mr. McKenzie: I didn't get no schooling'. My schooling' I got, I practically learned it myself. I was working Mr. [DeWeiss? 00:28:16] and his boys, they was going to college. They learned me how to read and write. I kept that up myself after then.

Roz Foster: Let me ask you something? I understand that when the churches, namely St. James, used to do baptisms, do you remember? Where did they hold the baptisms?

Mr. McKenzie: Out on the river.

Roz Foster: Out on the river?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Approximately where? At the end of Wiley?

[00:29:00]

Mr. McKenzie: You go down to Wiley Avenue and they dug a hole, wade out there far enough and they dig a hole and that's where they have the baptism.

Roz Foster: That's because the river's shallow?

Mr. McKenzie: River's shallow.

Roz Foster: How about the rock pit over here? I understand they used to baptize at the rock pit, too.

Mr. McKenzie: I don't know. It must be somewhere else. They wouldn't have done it here.

Roz Foster: Remember, this rock pit? Isn't there a place where they used to get rocks, right here on Magnolia, called the rock pit? Do you know where that is?

Mr. McKenzie: That rock pit right here and one right there, the big one.

Roz Foster: Baylor's?

Mr. McKenzie: The big one up here. Doing baptisms in there. Them too, as far as I know. Up there, where, Kelly got the grove was a big rock pit there, but I don't remember nobody got baptized there.

[00:30:00]

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: They get rocks out of them 3 pits.

Roz Foster: Right. Are they closed down now? Are the rock pits closed down, or do they still get rocks out of them?

Mr. McKenzie: They don't get no rocks out of none of them.

Roz Foster: Out of none of them, okay, but there were 3, huh?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, there were 3 of them. They don't get rocks out of there.

Roz Foster: Okay, how about baptism at Salt Lake? Do you remember anything about baptisms at Salt Lake?

Mr. McKenzie: No, I don't remember that.

Roz Foster: How about fishing around here?

Mr. McKenzie: Fishing?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Oh used to be a great fishing place.

Roz Foster: Tell us about fishing, where you used to go.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah well I'd go around Salt Lake, fishing. I'd do a lot of fishing then.

Roz Foster: What did you used to catch?

[00:31:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Catch brim [00:31:01] and trouts. I've seen trout come out of Salt Lake about 8, 10 foot long.

Roz Foster: That was some good eating, wasn't it?

Mr. McKenzie: See Salt Lake is dried up, now. Ain't no fish there.

Roz Foster: In the old days, how did you used to get from Mims to Salt Lake? That's a long way to go.

Mr. McKenzie: Three miles wasn't nothing.

Roz Foster: Huh?

Mr. McKenzie: Three miles wasn't nothing.

Roz Foster: Three miles wasn't nothing? What'd you do? Walk out there?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Oh, God bless you. Do you remember, what did you do when a hurricane came in? Do you remember any hurricanes?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, we had several hurricanes. It didn't do much damage through here.

Roz Foster: In the old days?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah. How did you know one was coming?

[00:32:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Well a train would bring the signal.

Roz Foster: Oh, they, the train would signal? How would they do that? By the whistle?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, by the whistle.

Roz Foster: Oh! Tell us about the train. There used to be a stop here in Mims, right?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: A depot? Where was the depot located?

Mr. McKenzie: Right there right at, this is the crossroad. At that crossing at the depot used to be right there [00:32:34], Western Union used to be there.

Roz Foster: Right there. Then there was another one at La Grange, right? La Grange Road? Do you remember the Wilsons that used to live down there? Buddy Wilson?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. I know him.

Roz Foster: Yeah? Do you remember riding the train?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh yeah.

Roz Foster: Did you ever ride the train?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah I ride the train.

Roz Foster: Where did you go on the train?

Mr. McKenzie: Go into Maytown, Titusville.

[00:33:00]

Roz Foster: Maytown, Titusville. How much did it cost back then?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh a quarter, or a dime.

Roz Foster: Do you remember sometimes when they used to have church conferences and they used to have special rates on the trains and everybody get on it and go?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, we'd have conference in Sanford.

Roz Foster: In Sanford?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay, when do you remember seeing the first car in Mims?

Mr. McKenzie: The first car?

Roz Foster: Yeah, when was that?

Speaker 3: What is this going to be on TV or something?

Roz Foster: Okay, about their car. Do you remember what kind it was?

Mr. McKenzie: What that?

Roz Foster: First car that ever came to Mims, that you can remember. Do you know what kind it was and what year?

[00:34:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Well, old man Bentley had a car. The old man. I don't mean Paul. He used to haul [passengers 00:34:10] around. That was the only car we had through in this neighborhood at that time. You know down in [inaudible 00:34:18], some more people got another car.

Roz Foster: Do you remember what kind they were?

Mr. McKenzie: Old man Cuyler had an Overland car.

Roz Foster: Overland?

Mr. McKenzie: Overland.

Roz Foster: Oh yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: I seen one, it was a couple years ago, an old Overland car. [inaudible 00:34:42], I
[00:35:00] seen one. Then I seen a T model Ford. The first car that I did see, I saw her, was
staying in Maytown. Ford had a, you had to pour water in it. [inaudible 00:35:16]
because the radiator it had on it, had a little wheel. It's the first car I'd seen in
Maytown. I can remember seeing that car or a car like that. The Warrens [00:35:32]
had one. Yeah, he had one. He was a big shot.

Roz Foster: Anything else you can remember about Maytown? Was there a place called, was
the halfway house there that was a hotel? With a restaurant in it at Maytown?

Mr. McKenzie: Maytown.

[00:36:00]

Roz Foster: Yeah, in the old days? Could people stop on the train and stop there or get
something to eat or stay overnight at Maytown?

Mr. McKenzie: No, because it, that's where they, that's where the train make it's turn around.

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: The railroad men go to that place and get their lunch at noon, see. It was run there
called Clark. Called Farmer Clark. His wife run the post office.

Roz Foster: About how many people lived at Maytown when you were a child? Do you
remember? How many families?

Mr. McKenzie: There were so many people there at [00:36:51] Maytown was a [inaudible
00:36:53].

Roz Foster: Really? Were most of them connected with the railroad?

[00:37:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Ma'am?

Roz Foster: Were most of them connected with the railroad?

Mr. McKenzie: No.

Roz Foster: No?

Mr. McKenzie: They were doing public work and turpentine work.

Roz Foster: Turpentine, okay. That's, most of them were turpentiners.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: The saw mill, that was there.

Roz Foster: Okay. The saw mill. That's right, you told me that. How about, do you remember any of the other families' names that lived in Maytown? Their last names?

Mr. McKenzie: Well, I left so long ago, I forgot [00:37:44]

Roz Foster: Okay, okay. How about the grove workers here in Mims? Were they seasonal? Did they go back and forth to different groves, or did they come in and work just for one grove owner?

[00:38:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Well it was back in [inaudible 00:38:03], there wasn't too many groves in here. Wasn't too many groves in here at the time.

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. McKenzie: I guess Chase & Company. [00:38:21]. They had on two groves in here Chase & Company.

Roz Foster: Chase & Company.

Mr. McKenzie: There was a [whoever 00:38:29], played on that one grove, he didn't do it no more. On the, it was on down the deal, quite a few groves let in here.

Roz Foster: Do you remember when the grove workers used to live? I was told that they had little segments, houses where they lived, and one was Bohemian Village, the other was Puerto Rican Village?

[00:39:00]

Mr. McKenzie: They had to have in grove, lots of them was build houses and stay up in the grove. Come to town and get the groves and go back out there in the woods. They didn't have to come to town too much.

Roz Foster: Did you ever grub a grove?

Mr. McKenzie: Ma'am?

Roz Foster: Did you ever grub a grove?

Mr. McKenzie: Grow one?

Roz Foster: Grub.

Mr. McKenzie: Grub?

Roz Foster: Grub.

Mr. McKenzie: With a grubbing hoe?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: I done that more time than a little.

Roz Foster: Tell me what grub hoe is, and what you do with it.

Mr. McKenzie: I think I got it, I got a grubbing hoe out there in the shed [00:39:53].

Roz Foster: That was hard work.

[00:40:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, I used to use it. It's antique [00:40:01]. I'll keep it. I won't get rid of it.

Roz Foster: That's right, that's right.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah and you make those hills, [inaudible] grub up and they were just about that high. Called a mound, and you got 25 cents. You had to dig, had to grub it and have it 8 foot across the top, so it was 14 inches high to set the tree in.

Roz Foster: I see.

Mr. McKenzie: It's 25 cents.

Roz Foster: 25 cents a tree?

Mr. McKenzie: 25 cents a mound.

Roz Foster: A mound, woo! That was hard work, wasn't it?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. You had to work hard to make, you get a good spot you might get 10 of them a day.

[00:41:00]

Roz Foster: How did you get out, how did you get the Palmettos out of the way?

Mr. McKenzie: You grub them out.

Roz Foster: Ugh. That's hard work. Hard work.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, it was tough.

Roz Foster: Sun up to sun down.

Mr. McKenzie: Sun up to sun down.

Roz Foster: Did anybody in the area have, did you used to go over to Merritt Island to hunt or anything?

Mr. McKenzie: Merritt Island?

Roz Foster: Yeah, did you know the Campbells over there?

Mr. McKenzie: Over on the island?

Roz Foster: Uh-huh.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, the Campbells, old Campbell, he died.

Roz Foster: Butler?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. Henry Campbell, it was Henry Campbell's daddy. He died years ago. I just didn't remember I knowed him pretty good before he died, that Campbell. Then they, Henry Campbell had a brother named Bill Campbell. They moved to Daytona. His whole family, they moved there. They used to live upside the road, right across from Nevins Packing house[00:42:13]. Right across the street, they lived in that house up on the hill. They tore that house down to build a house. Some white folks own that house. All that was, it had wood, so they had a little trees, one or two trees down there, but they had no big things. The father, he moved to Daytona, him and his grand boy.

[00:42:00]

Roz Foster: Do you remember the Poseys? Do you remember the Posey family?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, the Poseyes. Bill Posey and all of them. They from South Carolina. I was young when they, some of them come here. I was a boy then.

[00:43:00]

Roz Foster: Did they all work in the groves?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. They worked around though, some. [inaudible 00:43:15], they didn't do too much, they done an [inaudible.]

Roz Foster: What did you used to do for doctoring?

Mr. McKenzie: Doctor?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: We didn't have but one doctor in this neighborhood.

Roz Foster: What was his name?

Mr. McKenzie: Dr. Boyd.

Roz Foster: Boyd? Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What did you do if you had to go to a hospital or for emergency?

Mr. McKenzie: We didn't have any. You had to go to Daytona. Catch a train and go to Daytona. Dr. do what he can for you and put you on a train to Daytona to the hospital, to Bethune-Cookman. [00:44:00] [00:44:04]

Roz Foster: What did you do for some home remedies to care of, like you used to have some home remedies that you used to do.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What were they? Do you remember any of them?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. They cut all the old remedies out.

Roz Foster: They used to work, didn't they?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh yeah. They would do the trick.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Do you remember any of them?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, a few of them. They had a medicine, because you have a pain in the stomach. They had a medicine they called a [laudanum 00:44:44] in a 3-cornered bottle. That was the medicine they used in a turpentine. Put on that turpentine.

[00:45:00]

Roz Foster: That was used for a lot of things, wasn't it? Turpentine?

Mr. McKenzie: That's right.

Roz Foster: Yeah? How about, I understand they used to use spider webs for ...

Mr. McKenzie: Cuts.

Roz Foster: Cuts. Now how did you do that? How was that done?

Mr. McKenzie: Well you get that spider web and then if you cut your hand, you need a spider web for it and you wrapped it and stopped it from bleeding.

Roz Foster: Hmm. Good grief.

Mr. McKenzie: You use, let's say you got a boil on your hand or something, yeah. You get a egg and

[00:46:00] bust it and you just stay with that egg on that boil on your arm or shoulder and it, that's to draw it to a head to bust it. It draws it to. [00:46:07]. It hurts. After the boil busts, then you can....we called it a carbuncle. It comes on the back of your neck, mostly.

Roz Foster: Hmm.

Mr. McKenzie: It would be a big thing like that. Sometimes I have to go to the doctor and the doctor cut it and heal it up.

Roz Foster: What did you used to do about the mosquitoes?

Mr. McKenzie: Mosquito? I seen the mosquitoes so bad here that in this, couldn't work in the grove the mosquitoes was so bad. You had to stay out of it. You got a cabbage fan and we had to make a smudge pot and every tree you go to, you got that smudge pot with you. I've seen mosquitoes so bad you could take your hand and do that and catch your hand and kill the mosquitoes.

[00:47:00]

Roz Foster: Good grief. Just think, back then you didn't have any air conditioning.

Mr. McKenzie: No we didn't.

Roz Foster: How would you keep cool?

Mr. McKenzie: No we didn't have none. You know? Didn't know what that was.

Roz Foster: Is there anything else that you can think of that, let's see, we discussed the railroad and do you remember when any of the boats used to ply the rivers or anything like that back and forth? Were they still up and down the rivers at all?

Mr. McKenzie: The boats?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

[00:48:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Well, yeah. They hauled fruit up the river. Hauling fruit in Jacksonville on boats. They go south and they get fruit and boat it up to Jacksonville. Then on down there. See I railroad 10 years myself.

Roz Foster: You did?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah after I got grown, yeah.[00:48:25]

Roz Foster: Oh, you worked for FEC?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, I worked for Florida East Coast for 10 years.

Roz Foster: Florida East Coast. Well tell me something about that. My goodness.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, I was real, worked for a fellow called Owens Mahr.

Roz Foster: Owens Mahr, yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, he died. He was a good fellow. In fact all those good fellows would die out.

Roz Foster: Yeah, God bless them. Well, when you worked on the railroad, what did you do?

[00:49:00]

Mr. McKenzie: Pulled all the bad ties and put in good ones.

Roz Foster: On the train?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Oh.

Mr. McKenzie: Pull them out and put in new ties.

Roz Foster: Where did you work? Where did you work? All up and down the road.

Mr. McKenzie: We had a section, called a section. It's 17 miles where we had to work, see.

Roz Foster: Where was your section?

Mr. McKenzie: From here to Oak Hill, Oak Hill to Titusville. Then another old foreman, old man, I can't think of that old man. Old man Whittaker.

Roz Foster: Whittaker, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. McKenzie: That was the next foreman. They had a line where they st you to work 10 to 17
[00:50:00] head of men. Some of them section foreman were good and some of them was mean.

Roz Foster: Did they section men, did they live in the East Coast Railroad, did they have houses that the section

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah they had houses for the section foreman to stay in.

Roz Foster: Where were they located?

Mr. McKenzie: Right on the railroad track. Over there, they could haul the water to it. Put 2 big tanks of water out there and run in to the tank across the track. The water, you ask for it they give two more big tanks. You know the big tanks you see moving down the train?

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Mr. McKenzie: That's what the water come in.

[00:51:00]

Roz Foster: I see. You said you changed out the railroad ties, the old wooden ones, right?

Mr. McKenzie: That's right. We had to change when the wood, went to this cement ties.

Roz Foster: How much were you paid to do that and how long did you work?

Mr. McKenzie: Well I was knocking off and they put them in there. You couldn't get the wood ties, so they were making ties.

Roz Foster: You made them out of concrete?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, concrete.

Roz Foster: Oh my goodness.

Mr. McKenzie: They got a big plant right up here at Oak Hill.

Roz Foster: At Oak Hill.

Mr. McKenzie: We'd make them concrete tie.

Roz Foster: So you traveled from Oak Hill all the way to Titusville replacing the ties.

Mr. McKenzie: There was the section, they come along and put the ties out for you.

[00:52:00]

Roz Foster: I see, I see. I see. Do you remember about when, what time period this was that you worked?

Mr. McKenzie: What that?

Roz Foster: What time period, was this in the 50s or 40s when you did this?

Mr. McKenzie: 40?

Roz Foster: Yeah, was it in the 40s or 50s?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, it was back in the '40s. In the '30s. Yeah, I quit railroading in '37.

Roz Foster: Okay. That was a long time ago, wasn't it? You were just a young whipper snapper then. Well what did people, back in that period of time, what did people do for

entertainment in Mims?

Mr. McKenzie: Do what?

Roz Foster: What did you do for entertainment in Mims? Did you have dances or what did you do?

Mr. McKenzie: Didn't have nothing to do. Just go to church, that's all.

Roz Foster: Did you have a movie house up here or anything?

[00:53:00]

Mr. McKenzie: What that?

Roz Foster: A movie house?

Mr. McKenzie: No movie house.

Roz Foster: Did you ever go to the movies down in Titusville?

Mr. McKenzie: Very little.

Roz Foster: Very little?

Mr. McKenzie: No. I went to the movies several times in Titusville, but that was years ago I was a boy. Yeah.

Roz Foster: What kind of games did you play when you were young? Do you remember some of the games you used to play?

Mr. McKenzie: We used to play ball.

Roz Foster: Ball. That was a favorite past time, huh?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Baseball.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, right.

Roz Foster: Were you a good hitter? How about marbles? Did you used to play marbles?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, I used to shoot marbles.

Roz Foster: Shoot marbles? Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, you shoot marbles.

[00:54:00]

Roz Foster: Did anybody in the neighborhood used to make homemade ice cream?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh you had, yeah, they make it plenty.

Roz Foster: That was good, wasn't it?

Mr. McKenzie: Make plenty. Had our own ice cream churn [00:54:11]

Roz Foster: How was it made? Do you remember?

Mr. McKenzie: Ma'am?

Roz Foster: How was it made? Do you remember? They had a hand churn?

Mr. McKenzie: Oh yeah, the hand churn. They'd make it, they make their own custard to put in that churn and they'd churn it. You get ice and 50 pounds of ice for a quarter, at that time. Probably 3 or 4 folks I guess in the neighborhood here, 3 or 4 people in the neighborhood they'd make ice cream. Give the children all the ice cream. We enjoyed that.

[00:55:00]

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Getting back to the turpentine. Do you remember where the people lived out on Turpentine Road, at the camp out there?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What ever happened to that? Do you remember?

Mr. McKenzie: Some of the old buildings out there now. Out there at the, on 46, Kelly had all that.

Roz Foster: Kelly had all that, right?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Right.

Mr. McKenzie: Quite a few buildings out there now.

Roz Foster: Do you remember at all out there if anyone said that there was a cemetery out there where they buried some of the Turpentine workers? Did you ever hear anybody say anything about that?

Mr. McKenzie: No, I haven't.

[00:56:00]

Roz Foster: Okay.

Mr. McKenzie: Never heard nothing about that.

Roz Foster: Okay. Do you remember when you were young, over in Maytown, anybody being funeralized over in Maytown and where they buried them in Maytown?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah. I know where the old cemetery was over there.

Roz Foster: Where was that located?

Mr. McKenzie: It's located out at Maytown. It's about 2 miles. There's a big hill out there. They're buried out there on that hill.

Roz Foster: Two miles from town? West?

Mr. McKenzie: West. There's a big high hill out there. That's where they buried them.

Roz Foster: Was it black and white?

Mr. McKenzie: Black and white?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, both colors.

Roz Foster: Both colors were buried there, and this was back when you were young, right?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

[00:57:00]

Roz Foster: Back in the teens?

Mr. McKenzie: Way back there too. Yeah. I went through there and let's see, I went through about 8, 10 years ago. There's a woods there where the cemetery. It's growed up.

Roz Foster: Is it all growed up where the cemetery was?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, it's growed up in the woods.

Roz Foster: When you worked for FEC, do you remember a train wreck that was off near Maytown? A train wreck? Do you ever remember a train wreck that was out there? Somebody told me an old engine was still out there somewhere on the old Maytown road.

Mr. McKenzie: A train wreck?

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

[00:58:00]

Mr. McKenzie: No, I don't remember that. It must be before my time. The tram road train. Go out in the woods or something like that.

Roz Foster: Oh the old tram road?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah, from Salt Lake.

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah, it was right in the [inaudible 00:58:14]

Roz Foster: Do you remember that? Pieces of it.

Mr. McKenzie: What that?

Roz Foster: Were there pieces of it left out there in the woods?

Mr. McKenzie: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah? How about the Indian Mound Station, that big old Indian mound that was out there. Do you remember that?

Mr. McKenzie: The old Indian mine, I remember the old Indian mine all right. It was built and that's, you go out there, you go to the Indian mine and you go back out there before you get to Maytown.
[00:59:00]

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. McKenzie: You cut out through there by Hog Valley road and go that way.

Roz Foster: I see.

Mr. McKenzie: The Indian mine is sitting to the right. It's been years ago. I remember that but it been some time ago.

Roz Foster: Well Mr. McKenzie, it sure has been a pleasure talking with you today. Hopefully, future generations will listen to this tape and learn something by it and we thank you very much. Again, how old are you right now?

Mr. McKenzie: Right now, 97.

Roz Foster: 97. Is there anything else you'd like to say to anybody?

[01:00:00]

Mr. McKenzie: No, I don't guess not.

Roz Foster: Okay, well thank you so very much for your time.

Mr. McKenzie: That's all right.

Roz Foster: Okay, bye, bye.