

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

Roz Foster Oral history recorded of this gentleman. And what is your name, please?

Ander: Ander Hutcheson.

Roz Foster Where are you from, Ander?

Ander: Born in Georgia. We moved to Mims, Florida when I was three years old, 1931.

Roz Foster Who were your parents?

Ander: Almana and Ebenezer Hutcheson.

Roz Foster How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Ander: Nine.

Roz Foster Nine. Can you name them all?

Ander: Pardon?

Roz Foster Can you name them all?

Ander: Yeah. You want the names of all of them?

Roz Foster Yep.

[00:01:00]

Ander: Well, the first one was Hillard, Lizzy, Melvin, Alan, Wesley, Tilda, Archie, Lilian, and me. Did I forget any?

Roz Foster Did they all live in the Mims area?

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster How many are still presently alive?

Ander: Me.

Roz Foster That's all that's left. God bless you.

Ander: I'm the last one.

Roz Foster How old are you?

Ander: I'm only eighty.

Roz Foster: Only eighty. When were you born? What's your birth date?

Ander: October 12th, Columbus Day, 1928.

Roz Foster: Wonderful. You grew up in the Mims area. Where did you go to school?

[00:02:00]
Ander: Mims Elementary.

Roz Foster: Who was your teacher?

Ander: Mrs. Eva Taylor, and Lilian Harper, and Florence Blair.

Roz Foster: Tell us something about what it was like going to school in the '30s in the Mims area. Who were some of your roommates, or buddies, that you went to school with, and did you walk to school?

Ander: Yes, ma'am. We walked to school. I lived about one-and-a-half miles from school, lived right on US 1. And during the depression, we had a lot of people stopping in at the backdoor asking for food. My mother usually had something she'd give them, a biscuit or something. I had the Wimberlys. We had a Wimberly family, a foster family. We had the Sharpes. Most of the Sharpes were older than me. They're all gone but one now.

[00:03:00]

Roz Foster: How about the Roberts family?

Ander: The Roberts? They lived close to the school, almost across the highway from the school. They had P.W. Roberts. He's still out there. Had Lilian, and the other two, I can't think of their names right now.

Roz Foster: Mabel.

[00:04:00]
Ander: Mabel, and Phillip. Phillip was the old man. I don't know the mother's name, or first name. My sister used to go and spend some time with ... Her name was Lilian, and she used to go spend some time with Lilian after school. Mr. Roberts would give them candy. He was real nice to them.

Roz Foster: What did you do for entertainment as a young boy?

Ander: Well we lived in a big two-story house just before you get into Mims. It's been gone a long time ago. There was some large oak trees within a five-acre grove, and there was some large oak trees close to the house. I used to like to climb these trees and build swings in them. I dug a lot of holes, made caves, you know, and hiding places. My dad showed me how to make a bird trap when I was about nine or ten, I guess. Set the bird trap and caught a trap full of quail one day. Hand me that water, ma'am ... A friend of

[00:05:00]

[00:06:00] mine and me used to hunt birds or squirrels. He usually had a BB gun. We would hunt rabbits at night. We'd go fishing. These are about the things that we'd do.

Finally, one day, I had saved up fifty cents, and a nickel and dime, and I was walking home from school, and I run into this homeless person pushing a bicycle. He wanted to sell it. He said he'd take fifty cents for it, so when he come by my house, I give him the fifty cents. I fixed the bicycle up. That was my first bicycle. I had a lot of fun with it.

Roz Foster Did you ever ride the train into Titusville?

[00:07:00] Ander: No. Never did, but I used to watch for it and I'd hear it come. I'd go out and check on it when I heard it coming. It made a lot of noise. Old steam engine. "Ole' Buck," we called it, "Ole Buck." They parked it at Titusville at night, and in the morning, they'd crank it up and they'd go to New Smyrna [00:07:12] with it. Whatever they had to bring back, they'd load it up, bring it back that afternoon.

Roz Foster They used to have a stop in Mims right on 46.

Ander: Yeah. There was a depot there on 46. It was a train depot, and there was sidetracks. At the time, we had three packinghouses in Mims.

Roz Foster What were they? Do you remember the names?

[00:08:00] Ander: The Mims Citrus Exchange was one at the north end, and then the Blue Goose, next to 46, and then the [inaudible (Tree Goldy?)00:07:53] was the next one right next to that. There was sidetracks, and the train would leave empty cars there during the winter. In the fruit season, they'd leave empty cars ... They used to pack the fruit in wood cartons. They nailed the top of them. They nailed a board across the top. It's about enough for a man to handle it, you know, that box. Would hand-truck them out, up the ramp, into boxcars. There's a man in the boxcar that would stack them properly in the boxcar and nail slats on them to keep them from moving around.

[00:09:00] They'd had ice bunkers at the end of the cars. They'd put ice in there. And [New Smyrna 00:08:57] used to be one of the main stations for icing up the boxcar. Later on, I used to, as a teenager, I drove a semi and I hauled ice to New Smyrna from Daytona. I picked it up at a ice plant and hauled it to New Smyrna to help supplement what they made there, so they have enough to do the job.

Roz Foster How did you keep it from melting?

Ander: You didn't. You didn't want to leave it on that truck too long. It would keep a good while. It would keep several hours pretty well. It weighed more. It was overweight. It weighed enough to allow for a lot of melting.

[00:10:00] Roz Foster Back then, the packinghouses used to pack, wrap their citrus in tissue papers?

Ander: They had a thin paper. It was a good paper. It was stronger than a newspaper. It was in squares, and these packers, usually women, mostly women, they would real [fast at 00:10:23] that. They'd throw that orange in that paper, and wrap it up, and stick it in there. Depend on how many, the size. The size depend on how many you put in a box. And you had to pack them just right, you know. Had to get the right pattern in there too, to get the right amount of fruit in there and look good when you got through with it.

Roz Foster Who were the big citrus growers in the area during that time?

[00:11:00]

Ander: The old man, the original Parish here.

Roz Foster J.J. Parish.

Ander: J.J. Parish. He was the first one. There's a third one now. There was J.J. Jr. He was a lawyer. Then, now, this one, there's one left, they call J.J. III. The first one there was a man, a retired fire chief from New York City, came here and started Nevins Fruit Company. He originated it.

Roz Foster I think that was Mr. Terwilliger.

Ander: Who?

Roz Foster Terwilliger.

Ander: That name is familiar. You probably know that more than I do. I remember the Terwilliger camp.

Roz Foster And where was that located?

[00:12:00]

Ander: That was on J.J. Road in La Grange, between La Grange and Mims.

Roz Foster It was back on the railroad.

Ander: Well the packinghouse was on the river then. They had a problem with water, getting. They had to have a lot of water. They had a problem getting enough water without salt on the river, you know. They had it on the river because the main railroad would run along the river there, and they built it on the river.

[00:13:00] Well, they owned a lot of property. Back west of there, they had the Terwilliger place, was a big two-story house. It's down there behind the college now. They're going to keep it. That's a good old house.

Roz Foster That belonged to L.C. Oliver at one time. He built it.

Ander: They decided to run water from there down to the packinghouse. They had pumps up at

[00:14:00] the Oliver house, had them water pumps, and they run a waterline down about six-hundred feet behind the grove, and dug a big pit, big as this room here, and filled it up with rock. They pumped water into there. I was working at the packinghouse. I was about fourteen, I guess. They had me go down there and watch it, and make sure that the water table stayed up, and let them know if there's any problem. Then they pump it from there. They had a water line; they pump it from there down to the packinghouse. That's the way they got the fresh water.

Roz Foster That's interesting. To wash the fruit in? That's what they used to wash the fruit in?

Ander: Yeah. Use a lot of water.

Roz Foster Interesting.

Ander: They had two sections of packinghouse there, like two packinghouses, actually. And they'd used a lot of water. They'd fill these pits up with water to float the fruit in. And then they have [rinsers00:14:33] to [rinse 00:14:34] it off. It all goes [to waste 00:14:36]. They dump it all out at the end of the shift. Anyway, that's about the operation at the packinghouse.

Roz Foster Do you remember anything about the turpentine area? There was a camp out off of 46. Tell me something about that.

[00:15:00]

Ander: Yeah. That was sometime in the '30s, about, maybe the mid '30s. Do you know when the dates were? I don't remember.

Roz Foster No. It was in the '30s, though.

Ander: Yeah. It was in the '30s. My uncle was a carpenter. He came down here from Georgia. My mother's brother.

Roz Foster What was his name?

Ander: Warren Langford.

Roz Foster Warren Langford.

Ander: He built all these houses out back there for the help.

Roz Foster Out on 46 at the turpentine site?

Ander: Yeah. He built all these houses. They have a lot of help. They had a lot of labor, mostly black. Russian, Mr. Rushing brought his family here. O.C. is still out there. Have you talked to O.C. Rushing?

Roz Foster No, I haven't.

Ander: Well, if you get a chance, talk to him. He come here way after I did, but he can tell you some things too, especially about turpentine. His dad was one of the head people. He rode the woods on a horse all the time and carried a pistol. These fellows out there, they roamed the woods, and chip these pine trees, and put cups on them to get the tar from them. They built this still, turpentine still up there across from P.W. Roberts's house, where [I told you 00:16:50].

Roz Foster On US 1 in Mims?

Ander: Yeah. Where P.W. Roberts lives now. Across from there was the turpentine still.

[00:17:00]

Roz Foster About where the post office is today.

Ander: Yeah, on adjoining property of the post office.

Roz Foster Adjoining property.

Ander: Just south of the post office property.

Roz Foster There's a concrete place there, something, now. There's a business there, next ...

Ander: There's a business there. There's a business there behind the post office area, back in there, but there used to be a ready-mix place across in front of the post office there, over where that big building is over there now. That used to be a ready mix place, it belonged to the [00:17:44] Kelly's and Lucas'.

Roz Foster [00:18:00] That's where the turpentine still, the turpentine processing plant was, or that's where a collection point was? Where was the collection point? It used to be out off of 46, was the collection point.

Ander: The what?

Roz Foster Collection point.

Ander: Collection point?

Roz Foster Where they used to bring the barrels of [syrup00:18:07], and then they processed it at US 1. Is that what they did?

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster What happened to Kelly's? Do you know anything about Kelly at all, the family, or do you remember anything?

Ander: Not very much. I never did learn much about them until just, as far as I know, fairly

[00:19:00] recently. A family still lives there in Mims. They lived just north of where L&R Fruit Company was, the street that's north of there. They lived in one of those houses down there, two or three houses down, but I don't know where they are now. Don't know anything about them.

Roz Foster Do you remember what happened to Kelly's turpentine company that was on US 1? Did it burn down?

Ander: No, I don't recall anything. I can't tell you anything about that.

Roz Foster What were some of the other ... ? Do you remember anything about Southmere? That was out on 46.

Ander: I know what I've heard from the old timers. I used to hear some things about it. There was still a house out there, and some family. I had a friend whose family lived in this house out there. Some Indians lived in it during the time that we had the turpentine camp. Some Indians lived in that house.

[00:20:00] And across from the house, there was a ... It was an established community, you know. It was a town. Across from this house was a post office. They had a post office there. My friends, they used to ramble through the woods, and out in the woods, in the surrounding area, we found several places where there was foundations, concrete foundations, where there had been buildings there. It didn't get off the ground. Apparently, it was established back during the boom era.

Roz Foster In the '20s.

Ander: In the '20s. Then it just disintegrated. This was a really good house. It was left there because it was so good, I guess.

[00:21:00]
Roz Foster Approximately, where was it located? Near Six Mile Creek on the south side?

Ander: It was about a mile west of Hatbill Road.

Roz Foster West of Hatbill Road. Is there anything there now? Any remains that is visible remains of Southmere?

Ander: The only thing you might look for, if you go by there, is look on the south side of the road and see if you can see any of that house left there. That would be the only thing that I know, because that's the only thing that I know of it was visible, but it might be all gone now.

[00:22:00] One of these houses ... There's a man in Mims, his name was [B.I. Raiford 00:21:52]. You heard about him?

Roz Foster Yes.

Ander: He went out there and tore down one of these houses, and brought it to Mims, and built him a house.

Roz Foster Oh, used the lumber.

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster It's probably heart pine, some very good lumber to salvage.

Ander: Very good wood, yeah.

Roz Foster Yeah. Very good. Do you remember anything about when Baxter Points started in the '30s, about 1936? Do you remember hearing anything about Baxter Point?

Ander: Yeah, I've heard about it. I don't bring it up in my computer right now, but I've heard about it, Baxter Point.

Roz Foster How about Hatbill? Do you remember the camp that used to be out there called Hatbill?

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster [00:23:00] It was a hunt camp. How about, do you remember any of the hunt camps in the area, where people would go hunting for ducks and all kinds of things? Wasn't there a place called Big Camp?

Ander: We used to go hunting, but no. I wasn't familiar with the camps, but I know about Hatbill. I know that there's a fellow by name of ... We'd call him Preacher Kaiser. He had some cow pens out there, and some little livable buildings, some little buildings that could be lived in temporary, and places. Then we'd go on out past there, wind around the road, and go on out past as far as we could go, you know, and stop at the river, and fish, and go camping there sometimes.

[00:24:00]

Roz Foster During the '30s, what was living through the depression like around here?

Ander: Well I didn't know what was all that bad, really, because I didn't know any better. I know that some of my relatives ... We had a big house, and some of them would come here from Georgia, and stay and work for a while. They made a dollar a day. They would save up money and go back to Georgia. People used to come by the house, walking the road, and they'd come to the house asking for something to eat, and Mama would give them something. The better-off people would come by, and I would pick them some oranges, and give them to them, and they'd give me a quarter, or a nickel, or a dime.

[00:25:00]

We had ... Back then, somebody had cows, back then. There was a lot of little dairies all over the place.

Roz Foster I think the Osbornes had one on Dairy Road.

Ander: Yeah. Well, that Dairy Road, I was instrumental in naming that road. I bought my first ten-acres out there in '52.

Roz Foster Where was it located?

[00:26:00]
Ander: You're coming from Winn-Dixie Shopping Center, that first house on the left there?

Roz Foster Heading east?

Ander: Pardon?

Roz Foster Heading east on Dairy Road?

Ander: Yeah. Coming east on Dairy Road. Soon as you leave the Winn-Dixie property, across the street, there on the corner, I bought that ten-acres with that little house there, on the corner. That was a dirt road back then. That was in '52.

Roz Foster That was on the ... Did the Osbornes still have their dairy then? That was long gone?

Ander: [00:27:00] Osbornes, I don't remember them ever having that dairy there. That was owned by Horace Sharpe. Next to the [youngest 00:27:00] was a Horace of the Sharpe people. Before that, it was Weiss. It was Weiss Dairy, but Osborne, they may have owned it sometime. I don't know.

Roz Foster Probably in the early days. Do you ever remember anything about Indian Mound Station, the Indian mound that was out there off of Parrish Road.

Ander: Oh, yeah.

Roz Foster Tell me something about that, that Indian mound that was out there.

Ander: [00:28:00] It's still there. I walked over it many a time. There's signs where people have dug into it you know. But may not have dug far enough to find anything. And I think it's protected. I'm not sure, but I believe it's protected. It's probably owned by an individual.

Roz Foster How about in the old days? It wasn't protected back in the '40s and '50s. Did people go over there and look around, or search around, or try to find artifacts, or anything like that, back in those early days?

Ander: Yeah. You can see signs where people have dug in, probably dug with a shovel. It's a pretty good-sized place, indentation in the top of it, where somebody has dug, but don't look like any machinery's ever been into it. We used to have a buddy, Rudolph Spitter, [00:29:00] him and me used to spend some time over there. He's been dead several years, but we used to go across the bay. There was a crossing where there used to be an old tram road

across the bay that went across ...

Roz Foster Now, when you say the bay, what are you referring to?

Ander: There's an natural low place, a drain, that runs north and south, comes from across Highway 46, and it comes south, and it comes just west of the two schools on Dairy Road out there. There's a low area. And it goes on south, and comes right on along ... It runs into along Singleton, and Singleton ends right there at 405. That low area comes right on across there, and even goes across Singleton. Now, I don't know if the drain goes any further. I've never noticed there's anything under the road where it drains any further, but it's a natural low place where water runs when we get a lot of rain.

[00:30:00]

Roz Foster And that's where the tram road was?

Ander: Pardon?

Roz Foster That's where the tram road was, the old tram road?

Ander: Now, that was in Mims just about where Parker Avenue is, right in that area.

Roz Foster That's where it came through?

[00:31:00]

Ander: If you go across, if you go head west, and go off the end of Parker, and head down to the bay there, and look for it, you'll find it, find a place where it was filled in. Some kind of rail device used to go across there. They went across there and on over to Salt Lake Landing.

Roz Foster That's right. It was called the Old Paces Landing Road. It was the wooden rail tram that came from Salt Lake all the way over to the Indian River at Paces Landing.

Ander: You're probably right.

Roz Foster What was it like here in the 1940s? Were a lot of the men away to war? Do you remember a lot of the men being away to war, and what was going on in town about then in early 1940s?

[00:32:00]

Ander: Things were kind of booming. Things were pretty good, you know. After Roosevelt became president ... I was born under Hoover, and Roosevelt became president. It took a while, but things started to get better. Then, of course, what really brought us back was the war. When the war started, we had to build war material for ourselves and everybody else too. We spent a lot of money. That put a lot of people to work. People were making money then.

Roz Foster Do you remember the Brevard Lumber Company, and the sawmill?

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster Tell us about that.

[00:33:00]

Ander: Well that started ... Henry Goethe that came down from North Florida, someplace, and moved in to [Aurantia 00:33:01]. On the west side of the railroad, he bought property there and built a sawmill. Of course, there were plenty of timber in that [immediate 00:33:16] area there. He started cutting that timber and sawing it. He become well-off. Then, later on, he saw an opportunity to move his facilities to La Grange, where it is now. He moved all of his equipment up there, had a few houses built up there for his help, and then he put his operations in there, and built that nice building out front there, his hardware facility. He just continued to do well.

[00:34:00]

We had one bank at the time, [it was 00:34:12] Citizens' Bank. It was established right after all the banks went bust. Mr. Ashcraft comes here, and he had some money, and he opened that bank. Mr. Goethe was always the director at the bank. Then, later on, of course, they moved the bank. They built the new bank down there, where southeast, I guess, it is now, on the river.

[00:35:00]

Mr. Goethe was a wealthy man. He never had any family. Had two nephews. He left his wealth to one of his nephews. And he still lives, and I see him in the [restaurant 00:35:10] every once in a while.

Roz Foster That's Larry.

Ander: Pardon?

Roz Foster I think his name is Larry, Larry Goethe?

Ander: Larry is the younger one. He's grandnephew. He's the one that manages the store out there. Very nice fellow. He done a bang-up job managing that business. His daddy's the one that owns everything. Mr. Goethe owned a lot of property around about. Larry has managed that business, and he's done a real good job.

Roz Foster It's been in business for a long time.

Ander: Pardon?

Roz Foster It's been in business for a long time.

[00:36:00]

Ander: Oh, yeah. Since way back in, I guess, maybe that's the end of the '40s, somewhere about there.

Roz Foster Yeah, because they really made their business during the war, with all the lumber that was needed. How about, what was Mims like in the late 1940s? What was Mims like

back then? What was that all citrus with the packinghouse, Nevins Packinghouse? Tell me something about Mims back then?

Ander: Late '40s?

Roz Foster Yeah.

Ander: Well late '40s, the main industries here was citrus and fishing. People fishing made good money.

Roz Foster Who were some of the commercial fishermen?

[00:37:00]

Ander: Elmer [Nogels 00:36:52], J.W. Strickland, Knox, and ... I'll see him, but I can't think [of his name 00:37:22].

Roz Foster That's okay. Fishing was a big industry here back in the '40s.

Ander: Oh, yeah. It was. Very big industry. You could go, you could buy a fish for nineteen cents a pound.

Roz Foster Wow. Citrus, then, and fishing were the two main industries here, which now hardly exist anymore. A lot of the groves are disappearing. Do you remember where some of the pickers had camps up there, off of Wiley Road? Do you remember some of the picking camps? What was that ... ?

Ander: Oh, yeah. That was Terwilliger Camp.

[00:38:00]

Roz Foster That was Terwilliger Camp, off of Wiley Road?

Ander: Yeah. That was off of Wiley Road. Now, it belongs to one of the contractors, and they're back in there. The Bevilles used to live back there.

Roz Foster Oh, the Bevilles?

Ander: The Bevilles' estate back there. They used to live back there. Then packinghouse took it over. They kept their equipment, some of their people back there. You keep on reminding-

[00:39:00]

Roz Foster What was the relationship between the black community and the white community in Mims in the late 1940s?

Ander: There was a distinct separation. People didn't express too much what they thought, but they knew what they thought. It's common knowledge, you know, the separation between the blacks and whites since slavery, but things are different nowadays. We've

come a long ways. And thankfully, we have come a long ways. Things have got better.

[00:40:00]

Roz Foster What happened ... ? You were alive during what was going on with the Moores, Harriette and Harry T. Moore, in the late 1940s. Their place was bombed Christmas night, 1951. Do you remember anything? What was it like back then? Can you describe that, what happened, what you remember happening?

Ander: Yeah, I can tell you what I know. I was home. I was in the Marines, and I was home on a Christmas vacation. Before I tell you that, I knew the Moores about all my life. I just knew them, and that's all. I wasn't close to them, but I used to see them all the time, and I would see them in their car, the man and a wife in the front seat, and two daughters in the backseat. As a teenager, I worked at a station, service station, in Mims, and he would stop and buy gas from me.

[00:41:00]

Roz Foster Was that the Texaco station?

Ander: [Gulf 00:41:03].

Roz Foster Gulf, and who owned that?

Ander: My nephew owned it at the time.

Roz Foster What was his name?

Ander: Donny Hutcheson.

Roz Foster Oh, Donny Hutcheson owned the Gulf Station. Where was that located?

Ander: That was located there ... It's kind of hard ...

Roz Foster Was it on US 1?

Ander: Yeah, it was on US 1.

Roz Foster Near the railroad?

Ander: No.

Roz Foster Near Buffalo?

Ander: Well, it was next to the Old Taylor Garage.

Roz Foster Oh, okay. Near Main Street.

[00:42:00]

Ander: Also, it belonged to Cleary Taylor, the station. I also worked there for Cleary Taylor

[00:43:00] when it belonged to him. The Moores used to come stop in there and buy gas. This is all I know about them. I knew that he was a schoolteacher, and he was a principal. I just knew that from word of mouth and you know hearsay, but that's all I knew about him. Then, when I came home on leave in Christmas of '51 for two weeks, next morning, I was heading back to camp [Lejeune 00:42:50]. When I come along US 1, I saw all of these cars over there, all these cars over in that area.

Roz Foster Now, this was Christmas Day, or the day after Christmas?

Ander: You know, I don't even recall now. Maybe it was Christmas Day. I don't know.

Roz Foster Was it after the bombing?

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster Okay, the bombing was Christmas Night.

Ander: Night? Okay.

Roz Foster It must have been the following ...

Ander: It was the next morning. So I pulled in there where I could talk to somebody to find out what was happening. They told me that somebody blew up the Moores' house. I went on up the road. A few days later, my CO called me up and told me where to go to, and there was [the 00:43:53] FBI. They wanted to ask me a whole lot of questions. That's all I know about it, besides what I read in the paper.

[00:44:00]

Roz Foster Do you remember that Christmas night? Was it cold or foggy? What was it like Christmas night?

Ander: I don't remember.

Roz Foster Do you remember? Was it foggy?

Ander: I don't remember.

Roz Foster You don't remember?

Ander: I don't have any idea.

Roz Foster Do you remember, did anybody say who might have done it or anything like that?

Ander: Oh, people had ideas you know. People had thoughts. I'm not going to repeat what people thought about. Have you read the stories about it? Have you read the papers about it?

Roz Foster In the newspaper, yes.

Ander: It sounds like, to me, that this sheriff over in the center part of the state had something to do with.

Roz Foster Sheriff McCall.

[00:45:00]

Ander: Yeah. Sheriff McCall. That, what I've read, sounds good enough for me. Everybody's dead now. I had my thoughts too. I tried to analyze it, and arrive at some kind of possibility of what might have taken place, or who might have been involved, or if somebody around here could have been involved, just like most other people, I guess, would think, but I never did come up with anything, any good logical reason why anybody around here would want to do anything like that.

Roz Foster Did you hear the bomb explode Christmas Night at all?

[00:46:00]

Ander: No. I didn't. The first I knew about it was when I come by on my way to camp Lejeune the next morning and saw all these cars up there.

Roz Foster Actually, not too many people actually heard the explosion that night, then?

Ander: I don't see why they wouldn't hear it, you know, an explosion like that. The people within, I would say, a mile and a half, anyway ...

Roz Foster Would have heard it.

Ander: Would have heard it.

Roz Foster Yeah. I would think so too. You were in Titusville?

Ander: Yeah. I was in Titusville. I was on Tropic Street in Titusville ... Is the camera on?

Roz Foster Let's talk about the Noble family, and the house that they built over on Tropic Street? One of their houses is going to be used at the Heritage Park. Tell us about the Nobles.

[00:47:00]

Ander: Well Sonny ... We called him Sonny. His name was Wilmer. He's known by the name Sonny. He was in the Navy. He was stationed in the outbase in Titusville. They had a small detachment of Navy personnel there. Sonny happened to be a fisherman all of his life in the Indian River, and he knew every inch of the river, so they were glad to get him, to station him there. He raised pigs. and saved his money, and built this house on Tropic Street. It must have been in the earlier or mid '40s he built this house on Tropic Street.

[00:48:00] Now, it's sitting behind Brevard Community College.

Roz Foster It's going to become part of Heritage Park.

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster You helped him build that house?

Ander: I helped him, yeah, what I could. I handed him lumber, and cleaned up, and stuff like that.

Roz Foster Do you remember, next to that house, there was a ... ?

Ander: City dump?

Roz Foster City dump, or something, and everybody used to come out ... Tell us about that. Everybody used to come over there and look for stuff, and he'd have to get them off the property.

Ander: That was before Sonny built his house there. It was on the east side of Sonny's property. It was a low place. It was dropping off real low. The city used that for a dump. That's
[00:49:00] where they dumped the garbage. John Camel lived down the road from there a little ways, and he planted a five-acre grove, and he fertilized it out of that dump. He went there everyday and picked up all the stuff that he felt that an orange tree would feed off of, and put it around the tree.

[00:50:00] Then, later on, they quit using that dump, and they moved out off of Park Avenue. There's somewhere along Park Avenue there, about after you pass the old golf course and club building there that belongs to the church now. Past there, about halfway from there to Harrison on the left, there was a dump there. I don't know exactly where it is now, but there was a dump there. There may be a house on top of it. I don't know.

Roz Foster How about Donny Hutcheson, the old Hutcheson place out on the corner of Parish and Singleton? Can you tell us something about that?

Ander: Yeah. Donny built that, got that at Camp [Blanding 00:50:31]. When they were dismantling [00:50:31] Camp Blanding, they were selling [these houses 00:50:33]. They were put up in sections. They took it down in sections, and hauled it down. He built him a house out of it. Before Donny built his, Jimmy Walker had bought one up there and
[00:51:00] brought it back. It's still up in use out there in Mims.

Roz Foster Do you remember when the old homestead that Lana Hutcheson grew up [where it was 00:51:08] built? Do you remember that old house that's there, that old cracker house, and the barn? I think her father Leon built them.

Ander: Yeah. That was in the late '40s, somewhere in the late '40s.

Roz Foster As I understand, the Hutchesons owned all that property up there.

Ander: Yeah. My brother bought thirty-two acres there. All that property, most all of that property out there in that area, used to belong to the Warrens, the black family.

Roz Foster Warrens.

Ander: Yeah.

[00:52:00]

Roz Foster George Warren. George and Joe Warren, I think it was.

Ander: Well the old man, name was Joe. He had a cane mill there, and we used to use the cane mill. We used to grind cane and make syrup there.

Roz Foster Oh, so Joe Warren had an old cane mill there.

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster I see. Where about was it?

Ander: On the corner of Old Dixie and Parish.

Roz Foster Parish. There used to be a school there too that he had, I believe. Back in the old days, he had built a school there.

Ander: Not that I know of.

Roz Foster This was a long time ago.

Ander: There was a school at La Grange. There was a school there.

Roz Foster Yeah. That La Grange school.

Ander: Maybe he built his own school for the blacks. I don't know.

[00:53:00]

Roz Foster Yeah. He did. A long time ago, though. Now, some of the roads, most of those roads weren't paved during the early days.

Ander: That's right.

Roz Foster Do you remember when they paved 46?

Ander: It was in the '40s, in the mid to late '40s.

Roz Foster When they actually paved it?

Ander: Yeah.

Roz Foster I know they put the bridges in in the '30s, I think. P.W. Roberts, I think, was head of that

project. He worked on the roads back then, and the Sharpes work on the roads for the road department, I believe.

Ander: I don't remember. He might have used a shovel or [00:53:46], something like that.

Roz Foster: Do you remember anything else about Mims that you would like to relate, in the early days that's no longer there, some of the places that were there? You mentioned the Gulf Station. That's long gone. How about some stores? How about Sharpe's grocery store? That's still there.
[00:54:00]

Ander: Yeah. That's still there. Down where the drug store is now, Well just next door to there on the corner was [Duff's 00:54:14] store and post office. That's where Mr. Roberts used to go. He would be waiting there for the mail to come in when I walked home from school. I walked by him there nearly every day with his pipe in his mouth. Across from there was Baggett's [restaurant 00:54:40]. He had a pretty good restaurant business there.

[00:55:00] Before, on the corner, on the northeast corner of US 1 and 46, there was Taylor Garage, Dunn's garage. That was a popular place. They did a lot of business there. Belongs to Arthur Dunn. He was a county commissioner for a long time, and he and Taylor, Sherman Taylor, was the manager.

[00:56:00] They had the office was on the front. They had glass across the front of his office. This old fellow that lived out on Tomato Farm Road, his name was Graydon. He was the [LeFace's? 00:55:57] father-in-law, used to come in the town with a horse and buggy, and Mr. [LaFace? 00:56:09] bought a car, and he showed him how to drive it. He was coming in on 46 one day in the car, by his self, and he started doing like this: "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" Run right across the road into that office building.

Roz Foster: Oh my goodness! He still thought he was driving a horse!

Ander: Yeah.

[00:57:00] Ander: There's another story. There's a Johnson, man by the name of Johnson. He must have been fairly well-off. He always had a car, had a T-model, and you know T-models used to be hard to start. Starter springs, they broke all the time. He lived there in Mims. He had a garage to put his car in there. There's [some of them 00:57:25] in the habit of jacking the rear wheel up on a T-model, because, when it start to cranking, it would spin with that wheel up spinning. It would keep it spinning, make it start better.

[00:58:00] He bought him one of these cars, modern cars, and he parked it in the garage, and the first thing he did, he went and jacked up the wheel. They had good starters on them. He didn't have to worry about starting it.

Roz Foster: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me today? You about covered about everything? We just have about a minute. What's the biggest change that you have seen in this area

since you arrived here?

Ander: Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral. The harbor. We used to go pick up turtles. That supplemented our [diet 00:58:37]. We'd ride the beach all the way from north of Titusville, far as we could go up that way, to below Cocoa, and there was no harbor. We just drove back and forth and find a turtle, we'd pick him up and come home. That was a big thing when they raised that harbor out over there. You see this big boat coming in there now. It's the biggest boat in the world.

[00:59:00]
Roz Foster: Yeah. It's amazing, isn't it?

Ander: I'm surprised they got it in there.

Roz Foster: Thank you very much for coming today and sharing your story about Mims and Titusville, and how you grew up, and about some of the local businesses. We appreciate it very much.

Ander: You're welcome.