

**Transcript of an oral history interview in the collection of the
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922**

Speaker 1: Okay. Today, we're going to talk to Aline Ray Brinson. Uh, Aline, uh, tell us a little bit, something about yourself. Uh, when were you born?

Aline: I was born on July the 9th, 1910, in Georgetown, South Carolina.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Aline: My father worked for the Atlantic Coast Line in the logging, uh, train. On the logging train, and, um, his family, of course, were farmers. [inaudible 00:45] Who do you want to talk to you? (Laughs). And his brothers, uh, one of his brothers worked for the Coast Line in Florence, South Carolina, but the older brother ... he had two brothers ... he migrated to Florida, and he went back and he was telling them all about Florida, and my dad got the fever, so there was four of us girls, four children.

Speaker 1: And what were their names?

Aline: Mabel Hartman, Mabel Ray Hartman and, uh, her husband still lives here. She passed away three years ago. Uh, and I'm the second one, Aline Ray Brinson. Nell Lucille Knight. She died two years ago, and Ruth Carlisle is living in Wilmington, North Carolina. Then the two, uh, boys, my brother and youngest one, he was 19, and he joined the CC's and went to California.

Speaker 1: What was his name?

Aline: Herbert, [02:00] Jr. We called ... everybody called him "Junior," but Herbert, and, um, he contracted pneumonia the night that they got to San Francisco, and they shipped him back a corpse six weeks later. He was 19. That was quite a shock to the family, and the day that we got the word that Herbert had died in California, my oldest brother, Roscoe, got his letter from the government that he had been drafted, but the draft board here was so kind, they ... let's see. Herbert died the second day of November, so they waited till January to induct my ... my brother, and he was in the service for 26 years, and during that time, he married and has four sons. They live in Orlando, and, um, his wife died.

But anyway, that ... then there was two younger girls. They joined the Navy when they got out of high school. We all graduated from Titusville High School.

Speaker 1: What were their names?

Aline: The oldest one was Vendol, V-E-N-D-O-L, and, uh, she married ... after the war, she married a man from North Carolina, and, uh, she ... she died, had cancer, and my youngest sister was, uh, born in 1924, just ... she was two years old, or four years old when we moved from Cocoa to Titusville.

Speaker 1: And what was her name? [04:00]

Aline: Ethel. Ethel Ray. She never married, and ... but my mother, my ... died when she was born. She was two hours old when my mother died, so my aunt had come down from South Carolina to help take care of us children. Now, just think of that many children to take care of, and she just stayed on and helped, and the year after Mother died, in '25, my dad married my aunt. We always called her "Aunt Bea," [inaudible 04:44]. And, um, so, uh, anyway, she raised ... of course, I was 14 when my mother died, so I thought ...

Speaker 1: What was your mother's maiden name?

Aline: Ethel.

Speaker 1: Her maiden name.

Aline: Oh. Hutchison.

Speaker 1: Hutchison.

Aline: Yeah, she was a ... as I said, uh, she was the oldest of those nine girls.

Speaker 1: Um, so when you came to ... how old were you when you came to, uh, Titusville?

Aline: Sixteen.

Speaker 1: Sixteen, okay. And, uh, what did your dad do then?

Aline: Well, he ... he left the State Road Department in '24 and went with the City of Cocoa as chief of police, and he was police there till '28, and the commissioners decided they were going to make a change in the operation of the old folks' home. It was getting so dilapidated and ... and, uh, Mr. Day that owned it, I mean, was running it, Lee Day's father, he was ill, and his wife wasn't able to [06:00] ... and, um, so anyway, they asked Mr. Coughlin, the commissioner from Cocoa, asked my dad, he had, if he wouldn't consider taking over the management of the old folks' home.

Speaker 1: Now, where was this located here in Titusville?

Aline: On Barna Avenue and, um ... you know where Barna is?

Speaker 1: Yes.

Aline: Okay. You come off of Palm ... Park, come on around, make the circle and go on over to Harrison.

Speaker 1: So it actually, it extended from Harrison ...

Aline: ... from Harrison to Park.

Speaker 1: ... to ... to Park. Okay. And what was ... what was located on this piece of property for the old folks ... old folks' home, and this was approximately what year?

Aline: Well, it was 1928 is when we moved here.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Aline: March the 1st. We moved on the last day of February but that's ... and they paid him \$150 a month salary plus his living and his family. Now, that was quite a good deal, because you take eight children and, um ...

Speaker 1: Well, what ... what was the ... where was the ... what was the building look like? What ...

Aline: Oh. We had ... as you come in off of Park, as I said, and the road was a two-lane sand road, and it was almost a mile. It was a mile, and, uh, you got in the right-hand lane, and you stayed there. You didn't cross over. If you met anybody, you ... or they had to get out if they got ... was in your lane, they got out because you didn't. [08:00] I pushed and shoved ... but in the fall of '28, the commissioners decided that they could, uh, maybe with my dad's experience in road ... and the County Engineer, Mr. Smith, they got with him and Mr. Paxton. You never knew him, did you? Uh, he was an engineer, too. They all got together and with my dad's knowledge of road building, they decided they could pave Barna Avenue. It wasn't called Barna then. It was called County Farm and Road. The County Farm Road.

They went across the road of Park to a rock pit, a coquina Rock pit, which was ... I'll put that pencil down. Um, and blasted the coquina rock with dynamite and crushed it with a gasoline crusher. They went 12 inches down. They ... I think they said that they, um, eight was the ... you had to go eight inches, but the

engineers decided with the sand, they'd just go four more inches. So, uh, they crushed that, and they used the help with the prisoners from the county jail. They've hired two men to guard them, and, uh ... at night, they slept in the jail up here next to the courthouse, and, uh, then in the morning, they would bring them out to the farm for breakfast and [10:00] and dinner and supper before, and all the cooking and everything was done at the big house. That was where we lived.

Speaker 1: What did the compound consist of? It ... were there ... how many buildings were there?

Aline: Oh, that's right. There was our ... the main building, and they built a kitchen onto the back of it.

Speaker 1: And that's where you lived?

Aline: We lived there. There was a bedroom downstairs and a living room. Upstairs, there was two bedrooms, and the day we moved in, they started putting plumbing in, putting a bathroom in upstairs. They had outhouses. We had no telephone. We used light, uh ... kerosene lamps and, uh ... oh, it was ... let me see, In the late '30s before they ever got a telephone, but they finally ... the Florida Power & Light came in down Deleon and through negotiating, they got a line run from Park Avenue over and, uh ... the Florida Power & Light, they put lights the County had, and they put a telephone on the same pole that they ... the light pole was on.

Speaker 1: And how many other buildings? There was the big ...

Aline: All right. Then we had ... then, here was the ... here was the, the big building. You came in. Then over to the left was a three-bedroom cottage and a bathroom, and, um ... for the women, for the white women. And across in front of it was an old building that was ... for the men.

Speaker 1: And how many beds did that have in it? Do you remember?

Aline: It had [12:00] four bedrooms. They added onto it till they had ... and they'd put two men in each room. Then up the hill, oh, about like a block, we'd say, because it's ... it's hilly out that way. That was the colored quarters, and, uh ...

Speaker 1: What did that consist of?

Aline: They had, uh ... they had two buildings, but, uh ...

Speaker 1: And that operated independently? They did their own cooking there?

Aline: Yeah. The ... the nigras did their own cooking, most of it, or they would come up to the kitchen and get whatever they wanted, but ... but the men, the ... as I tried to say, all the food, the [inaudible 12:53] and everything, went through our kitchen. My mother had the menus and everything. Then, they would use the prisoners to, as yard people to look after the old folks, the men, and the women, why, we all helped. We had very few women. Sometime, we'd have two or three, and, um ... but the men seemed to be more ... a lot of them were men, like street people that they'd pick up on the street. They had nowhere to go, and they were sick, and they'd bring them out there. So ...

Speaker 1: Um, uh ... how did your ... how did your, uh, father operate the ... the old folks' home? I understand, uh, he liked it be called "the old folks' home" and nothing else.

Aline: Well, it was the old folks, because they were old folks, and, uh ... some of them had ... didn't have any relatives or nowhere else to go. And the blacks were the same way. [14:00]

Speaker 1: What did some people refer to it as that your father didn't like?

Aline: Oh, he didn't want them to call it the poor house. Some people say, "Oh, you live at the poor house." I said, "Yeah. Don't you want to come and live with us?" And, uh, we all ... Dad told us that ... and we were old enough. I, being next to the oldest, I was old enough to know that times was hard, and you take eight children coming up, that's pretty ... and we were allowed ... gasoline was 20 cents a gallon, and we were allowed a dollar's worth to come to church, and we ... when we rolled out our gas, why, Dad'd say, "Well, the car has to stay in the ... in the yard."

Speaker 1: Operating of the poor house, uh, I understand that your dad, uh, helped to start the cemetery.

Aline: Oh, yes.

Speaker 1: Tell us about that.

Aline: Well, they ... the county was paying Mr. Coon, who was the mortician, \$10 for every body that he buried. I assume, I think they just took wherever they could find a lot at Oak Lawn or somewhere, because that was the only place they ... besides LaGrange, and, uh ... so the commissioners, Mr. Brockett and Mr. Dunn out at Mims, and Mr. Fortenberry over on the island, the ... the five commissioners decided that they had all that land out there, and why couldn't

they bury their own? So they worked through the legislature or whatever they had to go through with, and, uh, they said, [16:00] "Yes, they could," and they could bury them. At that time, I don't know what the law is now, but at that time, if you buried anybody within 24 hours, you didn't have to have them embalmed.

Speaker 1: This was about 1932, as I understand.

Aline: The beginning of the early '30s. So they asked my dad ... he was a very versatile man. He could do anything, and very kind, and, uh ... so they ... he asked them what they wanted to do about the coffins, and we had, at that time, if you were a prisoner, and you had a sentence of not over two years, you served your time at the ... at the county farm, and there was an old gentleman there, Francis says she remembered it, and he was serving two years for making moonshine.

Speaker 1: What was his name?

Aline: Deke Jones. And, uh ... he was a carpenter, handyman. He was in his early 70s [inaudible [17:24] and so, he and my dad got together and Dad, he drew out what he ... the plan, and he went over to see the Morgan Lumber Company, which is lumber, and asked them what ... and they said, yes. They would cut the boards, and if he needed a coffin, he would go and get the boards, and Mr. Jones would put them together, and then we would ... I'd help my dad, because I was the oldest and helping, because Dad made it very plain to us that that was our home, and we had to help. We couldn't just [18:00] play around, and we would take cotton batting and tack around the coffin and then take white muslin and kind of pleat it around and put a pad in the bottom, and we'd ... they'd put the body in there, and then we'd put a ... a sheet on them, and they'd put the top on.

Speaker 1: And you'd put a little pillow in there?

Aline: Oh, yeah. We'd make the little pillow, and, uh ... now the cemetery, you're speaking, it was about like from here to, uh ... the railroad if you went round, come down Barna and turn at Day Street and go back, and so they ... Dad had a ... they had a tractor and a trailer, I mean, and when they'd have a funeral, to pass the time of day (laughs), I would take all the children, which my younger brothers and sisters, and, uh, we would go to the funeral. We'd gather periwinkles or ... or flowers, you know, and we'd go to the funeral, colored or white. Didn't make any difference, and we'd go to the funeral, and if they ... and Dad would get the different ministers that would volunteer to come and have the service.

And you was speaking ... I was telling you about the colored minister, uh, Preacher Harvey. He was born and raised here in Titusville, and, uh, he'd come every Sunday afternoon down that road from colored town back through, and you'd hear him acoming, singing, and we'd ask my dad if we didn't have a date or the boyfriends didn't have money to go anywhere, they'd just come out and we'd maybe make some ice cream. We had a churn [20:00], and we asked my dad one day, I said, "Can we go sit on the woodpile?" That separated the colored from the ... from the, uh ... uh, white down, and, uh, "Yes. You can go, but the first time that I hear a chuckle, that's it." "Okay, Daddy, we won't," and we ... then, we'd get to singing and clapping with them, you know, and enjoy, and you know, when segregation came in, it didn't bother me a bit.

Speaker 1: That was a ... that was a different time, and you enjoyed their music. You enjoyed their [crosstalk 20:40]

Aline: Oh, yeah. We'd sing along, "Rock of Ages" and ... and all those old songs, you know, and ...

Speaker 1: Now, he all ... he came every Sunday, Pastor Harvey. He also attended the funerals, to the funerals?

Aline: Sometimes he would. Yes, if the colored, he'd come. He was the one that would come, and ... and I can hear him say ... I told you. He'd say, "Dear Brothers and dear Sisters, it ain't when you go or how you go, but is you ready to go?" (Laughs). And we'd ... everybody'd sit there, and you know, that made an impression with me, because the older I get, people are taken like that. Some lay and linger and linger, and then others are taken quickly. So it does make you stop and think, don't it?

Speaker 1: How about the pastors that used to tend to the white population at the old folks' home? Do you remember some of their names [crosstalk 21:38] come?

Aline: Well, uh, the different denominations. The Catholic priest would come and if there was a Catholic, or if there was a Presbyterian or if there was some that didn't ... some of them would come out and have, and then sometimes, the ladies' missionary union would come out and give a ... a talk, [22:00]and we, of course, was very active in the Baptist church here. My ... we brought a good congregation with my family. (Laughs).

Speaker 1: Uh, when your, uh ... so, so actually, the old folks' home was pretty independent as far as taking care of, uh, the people who lived there. Um, what ... what happened to the old folks' home?

Aline: That's a question that I have often asked. They finally ... as I said, we got some kind of commissioners here. I won't name any names, uh, they got money hungry, and they sold that land, and they built a new old folks' home, and that was the one that Mr. and Mrs. Day, and what is there now?

Speaker 1: Country Acres ...

Aline: Country Acres.

Speaker 1: ... which is on Deleon.

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative). But, uh, they should have, years ago, built a good nursing home because that's what they needed. They had the land, but ...

Speaker 1: Now, as I understand, the cemetery is still on operation today, which sits off of what is now Day Street.

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Day and Deleon.

Speaker 1: That's right.

Aline: Deleon runs north and south, and, uh ... uh, Day Street comes in from Barna on ...

Speaker 1: Uh, at the ... the ... were the coloreds and the whites, uh, segregated at that time, and if so, how were they ... how were they buried?

Aline: The whites were buried over here. There was a road went through there, through the cemetery, and the coloreds were buried over [24:00] here.

Speaker 1: Uh, tell us about when your father used to make the tombstones.

Aline: Oh, you didn't ... well, they asked ... he made him a ... I'll have to use my ... he made him a square, and we took a piece of paper, and we tried to keep a record, you know, of when they came to the home. Of course, some of them had no records. John Jones or something. But anyway, Dad would put ... he'd pour his cement and let it set, you understand. And Mr. Ford, over here at the hardware store, he ... he ordered him, um, numbers and the alphabet, and then Dad would have me print, John Jones, and he was born ... if we got his ... could get it, and then he, um ... died a certain day. And, uh ...

Speaker 1: This was printed in a stencil on the tombstone?

Aline: On the tombstone.

Speaker 1: In wet cement.

Aline: And then, when it got hard, you know, set, why, Dad'd take it and take it over to the cemetery and put it. So, I want to go, Frances said she'd go with. I want to go and go through. I've been so many times. So many of the people that I helped take care of and knew their names, I want to go and see them, see their graves.

Speaker 1: That ... that, uh, cemetery is still in operation today ...

Aline: Do they ...

Speaker 1: ... and they're still burying there today. Yes.

Aline: Oh, I'm so glad. It's a beautiful place.

Speaker 1: Yes, it is beautiful under the oak trees.

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 1: And, uh ... and, uh, the, uh, the county home is still in operation ...

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 1: ... and, uh ... and, uh ... [26:00] uh, I believe ...

Aline: See, they sold all that property to, to, uh ... different ... it's housing out there now.

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Aline: Oh, and we also had a barn. We had two mules and, uh ... Dad always kept two milk cows so there'd be plenty of good milk for the, uh, tenants, you know. Chickens and turkeys and anything. See, Dad was a farmer, so he ... he just fit right in, but then, his health was so bad.

Speaker 1: Let me ask you a question of, you had mentioned that your father worked for the, uh ... for the, uh ... road department

Aline: Yes.

Speaker 1: Okay. Where ... what ... what was ... what did he do here in Brevard County, uh, for the road department? Uh, how did he build roads? Where did he build them?

Aline: When he ... we were in Jackson ... above Jacksonville, in Nassau County, and, um ... they sent him, when he would finish a strip of ... a portion, then they'd move him. We stayed one place two years, and they'd finish up. They made the road beds with hand shovels, and mules or trucks, mostly mules and manual labor. We ... they started at ... you know where the old ... the old highway comes in below Cocoa or Rockledge, comes into U.S. 1?

Speaker 1: Yes.

Aline: You know. Huh?

Male Voice: Williams Point?

Aline: No. Williams Point's north. We were south. Um, King was the captain of the colored camp [28:00]at ... where the, uh ... prison is today. That was where the ... the camp was for the ... and they started at 50 and went south. Dad started at Rockledge, and they went, and before he ... he quit, the state road department, they were just getting ready to go into Eau Gallie or North Melbourne, the call it now.

Speaker 1: But when you're talking about the camps, what are you ... what are you talking about?

Aline: They were prison camps. You ... you ... I don't know whether you're familiar with them or not, but, uh ... they just had big camps, uh, and they had barracks, and, uh, they ... Dad would have anywhere from 25 to 30 or 35 prisoners. They ... they didn't ... they would be the white camp, and the colored ... they didn't segregate ... I mean, and, um ... and they'd use prison help.

Speaker 1: And this was in the '20s?

Aline: Oh, yeah. Dad went with them right after World War I. He got a job with the state road department, and he moved to Deleon, the first camp that he had, was just on 17 north of Deleon, and then he ... we were there two years. Then they moved him to Callaghan or to ... up in Nassau, just ... he built the river ... the road from Callaghan to the St. Mary's River, and they then moved him to Cocoa, and ...

Male Voice: You lived at Bonaventure?

Aline: Yes. Bonaventure.

Speaker 1: Well, who were some of the other people that lived at Bonaventure [30:00] when you were there? Do you remember their names?

Aline: We went to school. We rode the school bus from the Griggses and I don't remember who ...

Speaker 1: Stewarts? Do you remember the Stewarts at all?

Aline: Yeah. They lived there on the river.

Speaker 1: Yes.

Aline: They'd come down on the river.

Speaker 1: And, uh ... and you said that he helped build the road up to Williams Point?

Aline: No. That was ... the man that had charge of that camp, his name was King.

Speaker 1: Oh, King.

Aline: He had nigras.

Speaker 1: I see.

Aline: He had a black ...

Speaker 1: [Crosstalk 30:33]

Aline: In other words, he had a black camp.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Aline: See. My dad had all whites.

Speaker 1: Did he build any roads in this area, in the Titusville area?

Aline: My father?

Speaker 1: Yes.

Aline: Well, they built Barna Avenue and another thing, they also cleared Dunn Airport with the county prisoners. See?

Speaker 1: Okay. Does he ... do you ... do you ever remember out by Dunn Airport where the old spring was? The spring head that was over near Williams Road and Old Dixie Highway? There used to be a spring head out there. Do you remember anything about that at all?

Aline: No. No. I don't know.

Speaker 1: No? During the early days of Titusville when you were here, uh, what are some of the things you used to do as a young girl for entertainment?

Aline: Well, we had to work at home, and we didn't have too much.

Speaker 1: You went to Titusville High School?

Aline: Oh, yes.

Speaker 1: Yes?

Aline: I finished my last two years there.

Speaker 1: And who were some of your schoolmates?

Aline: Well, anybody in this ... '80s, and you think back. She was talking about the Taylors, uh, Lois Taylor. Uh, she's married to Guy Boyd. They live out on Manter. I don't know whether you know them. They ... [32:00] he had the Gulf service station here in Titusville for many years. Well, ever since he finished high school, and, uh ... then, Nellie ... there was 30 that graduated in my class. My sister, that died two years ago was ... she and I were in the same grade from the fourth grade up, and, uh ... she, um ...

Speaker 1: Did you ride the school bus, or did you walk to school?

Aline: Well, when we lived at Rockledge, we rode the school bus, and talk about mosquitoes. We'd built a ... we had to walk a mile from where our house was over by the prison camp over to the river to the road, so we took rock and built us a big circle, so we could build a smudge fire to smudge the mosquitoes away till the school bus come, and the school bus had just seats on each side, and, uh ... the, uh ... they rolled the canvases down if it rained, and if they rolled the canvases down, then the boys would get to slapping the girls, so Mr. Griggs, he was a senior at Titus ... at Cocoa High, and so he wouldn't roll the window down so when it rained, most of the time, we got wet. (Laughter). But we had a lot of fun.

Speaker 1: Uh, uh ... did you attend this First Baptist Church of Titusville also in this ... in this ... in this, uh ... in the old, uh, church [crosstalk 33:43]

Aline: Well, I was married in that church.

Speaker 1: You were married in that old church?

Aline: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Oh.

Aline: Yeah.

Speaker 1: What year was that?

Aline: In May the 20th, 1939.

Speaker 1: 19 ... and what did Mr. Brinson do?

Aline: Well, he worked in Miami with, uh ... oh, National Biscuit. [34:00]

Speaker 1: Oh.

Aline: Had been with them five years, and he contracted or developed, whatever, uh ... now that was in '39. We were married in May, and in October, he began to have back trouble, and he went from one doctor to another. Finally, he went to a specialist, and he said, "Mr. Brinson, you got rheumatoid arthritis. There's nothing we've found we can do. You just do the best you can." So, he got worse, and it began to draw him over. And he was there three years, and, uh ... so then one day, I had come home ... talk about riding the train. I rode the train from Miami here when my oldest daughter was a baby, and I'd come up that weekend to spend a week with my folks. My husband called, and he said, "Well, just get on that train Sunday and come home. We don't ... I don't have a job." They had let him go. They were so afraid that he was going to say that he got hurt on the job.

Speaker 1: How long did it take you to get from Miami to Titusville on the train? How many hours?

Aline: Ooh, not too long.

Speaker 1: No? Do you remember how many hours it took?

Aline: Well, you'd leave after lunch, and you'd get here before dark because you stopped at every ... you stopped all along the road like the bus.

Speaker 1: Do you remember Dr. Peppers that used to be here? Remember a Dr. Peppers?

Aline: Yes, and I knew his wife. He died, uh, about the time I moved here. But I didn't know him as well as I did his wife, [36:00] Jessie. Her name was Jessie Peppers. She lived on the same avenue.

Speaker 1: Do you remember Dr. Spell?

Aline: Oh, yes.

Speaker 1: Was he a good doctor?

Aline: Well, he ran the drugstore. I never did know much about his doctoring.

Speaker 1: Oh, he ran the drugstore.

Aline: His daughter was a very good friend of ours. She was a member of this church here. They were from Kentucky.

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative). You had quite a few people here in the area from Kentucky.

Aline: Oh, at one time, why, you thought Titus ... they should have named it Kentuckyville or something. (Laughs).

Speaker 1: Uh, who are some of the oldtimers that you can remember, uh, in the area? Do you remember ... do you remember, uh, when, uh, Burt Johnson had the saloon?

Aline: Yes, I ...

Speaker 1: What did the saloon look like? Did you ever remember, uh, what ... what that was like?

Aline: I never went in it, so I don't know.

Speaker 1: You weren't allowed in it, as I understand. It was a man's ...

Aline: Yeah, and he worked at Nevin's Packing House ...

Speaker 1: Yeah. Do you ...

Aline: ... and I worked 10 years, packed fruit for Nevin's for 10 years.

Speaker 1: Oh. You did?

Aline: We worked in from ... we'd start in, um ... October and wind up in May or June.

Speaker 1: What was packing like? What did you pack?

Aline: Hard work.

Speaker 1: What did you pack the oranges in?

Male Voice: Wooden crates. Wooden boxes.

Speaker 1: Did you wrap each one?

Aline: Every one.

Speaker 1: And what were they wrapped in?

Aline: Tissue, box ... and the different-sized oranges had different sized ... and you'd pick up the, uh ... paper with this hand or whatever hand, and you'd pick the orange up, and you'd throw it in there and squeeze it and put it in.

Speaker 1: Very carefully.

Aline: And if you made \$25 a week, you had made a big one.

Speaker 1: That Nevins has been in ...

Aline: Wasn't no employment here, and my dad was of the [38:00] opinion that women stayed at home. They didn't go up and down the road. We wanted to go ... my sisters and I wanted to do like some of the other girls ... get ... they called them "fruit tramps." I don't know what you'd call them. Dad said, "No, not as long as you're under my roof. You're not going to be going up and down the road."

Speaker 1: What were ... do you remember some of the other packing houses in the area when ... in the old days?

Aline: Well, we had the Blue Goose.

Speaker 1: Yeah? Where was that [crosstalk 38:29]

Aline: American Fruit Growers. It was on 46th, right across the railroad. They've tore it down. The Baptist Church, I think, has that now.

Speaker 1: Right. That was still around ...

Aline: And the ... then the Citrus Exchange was right across the 46th. And then, out in ... off of Wiley, do you know where Wiley is?

Speaker 1: Yes, in Mims.

Aline: Oh, what was that?

Speaker 1: J.J.?

Aline: No. J.J. was down here on J.J. Road. I know. I went there 10 years.

Speaker 1: Tillwilliger? Tillwilliger?

Aline: Tillwilliger.

Speaker 1: Tilliwilliger.

Aline: Tillwilliger had ... he had a ...

Speaker 1: At the end of Wiley.

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 1: And I understand the railroad used to come up by there, and they used to load them on the trains.

Aline: Oh, yeah. The rail ... the railroad would go there, and we'd have to ... we'd go to work, and Mr. Brown would say, "Well, you all. Get to work now. I've got so many cars that's got to go to England," or somewhere, and we had to get them through so they could ... the train could pick them up when it come by.

Speaker 1: What was the worst hurricane you ever saw here? Do you remember the hurricane ...

Aline: We didn't have no hurricanes through there.

Speaker 1: (Laughs).

Aline: What you ...

Speaker 1: Well, how about a high wind blowing then?

Aline: Well, in '45, it ...

Speaker 1: What happened to the wharf out here?

Aline: Yeah, that was in '45.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Aline: It tore all the ...

Speaker 1: What happened?

Aline: Well, the wind came, and we got up the next morning, [40:00], and there was the ... the ... the fish houses was all floating around in the ...

Speaker 1: Out at the end of Broad Street.

Aline: Yeah. Now, I'll tell you something. You can mark it. We've never ... go back in your history. Don't take my word for it ... had a hurricane that's come in from the Cape into this area. They've either come in at Melbourne or below or New Smyrna. And when I was a girl, there was a hurricane out there in the Atlantic churning, and churning, and we had some friends that lived over at Eberweins. Did you remember? They were commercial fishermen, and they were boys, you know, and they'd come ... I had a sister that lived here, and, uh ... he said ... We wanted to go out over to the beach, but they wouldn't come, and we wouldn't dare let our folks know. But he said, "That hurricane's not coming in here." He said, "You can get your history book, and you've never had a hurricane." I would tell people that, and they'd laugh. What? But that's the truth.

Speaker 1: How ... how cold ... what's the coldest day you ever remembered here in Titusville? How cold did it get?

Aline: Oh, 24, 25.

Speaker 1: Do you remember what ... what happened to the orange groves back then?

Aline: Yes. In '28, we were living in Cocoa, and my father, they were having some South Carolina con ... get together at Lake [inaudible 41:55]. Do you know where that is? It's over near Orlando somewhere, and, uh [42:00] his sister was coming in from Clearwater, and, uh, well, Dad decided he'd go, and he'd take us older girls with him. I like to froze to death. I saw fish that big froze in the Tampa Bay. That's the coldest I've ever seen it, but I've seen it way, yeah, down. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 1: Temperatures used to be , uh, not as hot then in the early days as they are now ...

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Aline: ... and ... and, uh ... and colder in the wintertime, but, uh, I believe the average temperature, it never got above, uh, like 87, 89 degrees was really hot for this area. Uh, what ... uh, getting back to, uh, the early days. Uh, did you use, um, mosquito beaters, uh ...

Aline: Oh, yeah. The name ... them beaters?

Speaker 1: How are they made? How are they made?

Aline: Well, they cut the bud out of the palmetto and strip it and then hang it up to dry, and when it gets dry, then they'd strip it some more and take twine and make a handle. You hang it by the door and before you went in the house, you dusted yourself off good with the mosquito beater.

Speaker 1: Uh-huh. So you wouldn't take them inside, right?

Aline: No.

Speaker 1: Yeah.

Aline: And we used to put our hand up on the screen so that ...

Speaker 1: They were that ... You put the hand up on the screen, and they would [crosstalk 43:37]

Aline: They don't know what mosquitoes are anymore.

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Aline: I know what mosquitoes have been.

Speaker 1: Uh, what was Fourth of July here in Titusville?

Aline: Oh, we always had a free ... now, listen. We had a free fish fry. The mullet, the fishermen, you know ... This used to be the mullet, uh ... of the world [44:00] or something.

Speaker 1: The mullet capital of the world.

Aline: And the fishermen would donate the fish and clean them and everything, and the men would fry them, and we'd go ... we'd have it out at Sand Point. The merchants would furnish the grease, the lard or whatever, and the rolls and whatever, and we'd have a free fish fry.

Speaker 1: Hmm.

Aline: And it was ... they made this fat. We had a man here, Mr. Higgs ... I don't want to handle that, uh, was a tinner, you know, he worked with the tin ...

Speaker 1: [Inaudible 44:44]

Aline: ... and he made these vats, and they put the fish ... made baskets, and they'd lay the fish in there and then put them in that hot oil, and let them get brown and dip them out. They were so good. Oh, I wish I had one now.

Speaker 1: Do you ... do you ever remember eating swamp cabbage?

Aline: I wish I had some.

Speaker 1: How did you make Swamp Cabbage? Do you remember?

Aline: Well, I ... What my mother used just ... and what I do, too, when I can get them, cook them like I do cabbage. You have to peel them. You cut the bud out of the ...

Speaker 1: ... Out of the palm.

Aline: ... the young palm. And then you peel that off until you get down to the bud, and that's tender, and it's not bitter, but if you don't get that bud off, it's bitter, and then we would take them and cook ... cut them up, cook them with a little bacon, and ...

Speaker 1: Good eating, huh?

Aline: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 1: Sweet. Well, is there anything else you can think that you ...

Aline: No. I don't think I have, uh ... let me see.

Speaker 1: Oh. Who were the nurses in the area? Who were the, uh ... uh, we had mentioned that [46:00] there were a couple of ladies who, uh ... who, uh ... uh, were the local nurses in the area because we didn't really have too much doctoring going on. Can you remember a Doc Wilson?

Aline: No. He was before my time

Speaker 1: Before your time? Who were the ... who were the nurses [crosstalk 46:17]

Aline: He was Ms. Battle's father, wasn't he?

Speaker 1: Yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Aline: Yeah, he was. No, we didn't ...

Speaker 1: Okay. Uh e3

Aline: We had a health ... the county had a health program, and ... and, uh, there were several women that were nurses or took ... went around to the health, you know, took care of people that couldn't take care of themselves.

Speaker 1: Yeah. Uh, well, we're going to end up for now, and I'd like to thank you for coming today.

Aline: Let me see.

Speaker 1: And, um ... I think, uh, we have about concluded.

Aline: Well, I know I've talked a lot and said little. (Laughter).

Male Voice: Thank you, Ms. Brinson.

Aline: I gave a talk at the museum. They asked me one time, and my daughter was visiting here from North Carolina. She's a second daughter, a nurse 30 years, and I was ... getting my thing ready, and she said, and I said, "Juanita," I said, "They want me to give a talk on the 60 years that I had lived in Titusville." She said, "Mother, they didn't say they wanted you to talk for 60 years now." (Laughter).

Male Voice: Very good.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Male Voice: Thank you. Thank you again.

Aline: The [inaudible 00: 47:46] Building. Did you ever see that beautiful building that Titusville had?

Speaker 1: [Inaudible 47:50]. No, but I've seen pictures of it.

Aline: It was a Spanish ... well, it was Spanish tile. Now, why did they tear that down? I cried. I cried. I cried. I cried. [48:00]