

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

Roz: Uh, good afternoon Jocille.

Jocille: Good afternoon.

Roz: Uh, tell me your full name.

Jocille: My full name is Jocille, my full name is Jocille Travis. I was born uh, December the 23rd, 1917 in Mims. Uh, my mother and father Lucille Warren and Joseph Warren Sr.

Roz: And, and uh, you're a very historic family. Uh, when did, when did Joe come here?

Jocille: My father uh, came in, to this area when he was around the age of three. His father was given a land grant.

Roz: And who was his father?

Jocille: Uh, George Warren. George Warren and um, they came to this area from Augusta, Georgia by uh, wagon. I guess you'd call it a wagon train through uh, Wild Waste Wilderness [00:01:11] and uh, they settled in the, what is really LaGrange, part of LaGrange and part is Mims that area that they, his land grant covered, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay, and uh, what year was this when they came here approximately? Do you remember the story?

Jocille: In the 187- late 1869, early 1870's, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: And, and where is the area that they settled in uh, uh, located.

Jocille: Their original home was built on the site, well, Nevins Packing [00:02:00] House now exist. That was the original home site. It was, he built it out of um, pine trees. He hewed [00:02:11] them and put them together by pegs. That was the original home.

Roz: I see.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: And um, uh, did uh, did this extend over to Old Dixie Highway?

Jocille: Yeah, it went across the Old Dixie Highway and uh, well for this now Parrish Road part of, was on the south side of Parrish Road. That's why I said some was in LaGrange and some was in Mims.

Roz: Oh.

Jocille: Because that Parrish Road was supposed to divide LaGrange from uh, Mims. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay. Um, (clears throat) and uh, uh, the area that uh, their old estate was on was referred to as the Warren Estate uh, and this was uh, belonged to George Warren-

Jocille: George Warren.

Roz: by land grant.

Jocille: By land grant, yes.

Roz: Okay and uh-

Jocille: I have a copy of the original land grant.

Roz: Oh, wonderful. Um, do you, um, uh, what was, what was located on this piece of property uh, that was, is of historical significance?

Jocille: Let me tell you, at that time, it was a wild waste howling [00:03:23] wilderness. Wild hogs, panther, bear, you name it (laughing) uh, my father uh, told us that uh, the wild hogs would come up and sleep under their house at night to keep the panther from bothering them. Panther wouldn't come up where they could smell humans.

Roz: I see.

Jocille: And the wild hogs would sleep under their house at night.

Roz: Mm-hmm (affirmative) uh, I understand that there was uh, a little schoolhouse that the Warren's built (clears throat). Could you tell me something about that and where it was located? [00:04:00]

Jocille: Well, that schoolhouse was from my original home place oh, maybe um ... 300 feet from my house because I could run to the school (chuckles).

Roz: Okay and where was-

Jocille: And it was right on the corner of what is now Parrish and uh, Old Dixie, Parrish Road and Old Dixie. It was right on the northwest corner.

Roz: The northwest corner.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay and what did the little schoolhouse look like?

Jocille: A two-room building oh, with one kind of a square room and then the back room uh, an L shape like.

Roz: Okay.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz: And do you remember who attended school there, some of the names?

Jocille: The, uh, as far as I know, the uh, only people at first in attendance were from the Warrens, stemmed from the Warren family which included the Simms, the Campbells, you know.

Roz: Okay.

Jocille: Those were uh, among the first people. Then as people populated what we call uh, then North Mims uh, those children walked to school. There were no buses.

Roz: So, so do you reme- do you remember uh, (clears throat) uh, them telling you approximately how many children actually went to the school? We know in numbers.

Jocille: Maybe 25 or 30, it was small you know, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: That, that was quite a few.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Do you remember the names of some of the children and who the teacher was? Who was the teacher there?

Jocille: I don't remember all of the teachers. There was a Rev. [00:05:54] Tate that taught there and um, [00:06:00] there was another [00:06:03] Prof. D. E. White from Gainesville that taught there. Um, a Mrs. Meeks [00:06:10] out of Jacksonville taught there, uh, my aunt, my father's sister Annie Simms was one of the original teachers. Um ... and then of course as the time went by there were um, a Mrs. [McDuffy 00:06:35] came in and taught one year. Oh, at, it was basically a two-teacher facility. That's all.

Roz: Oh, I see.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative), two teachers.

Roz: Uh, and what happened to that schoolhouse?

Jocille: The school at, you know, I'm not so sure if that building, I think it was turned into a home. Now the building may not be there now but it, up until a few years back it was. Um, the school when they moved it from there, it was moved here to Cuyler [00:07:15].

Roz: Oh, it was moved to Cuyler [00:07:17].

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Uh, uh and what, uh, on Cuyler [00:07:21]?

Jocille: The front building part there was the uh, was the original school [that they 00:07:28] moved. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: I see and uh, do you know about what time period this was (clears throat) like in the '20s or '30s?

Jocille: It must have been in the late '20s around '27, '28 something like that maybe.

Roz: Okay and so, did that, that become the Cuyler [00:07:50] school then or-

Jocille: They're, that became Cuyler [00:07:52] school. It was not named [Cuyler 00:07:54] school then.

Roz: It was-

Jocille: It was uh ...

Roz: Mims Elementary?

Jocille Travis(4)

Jocille: Hah, [00:08:00] no. It was Colored School-

Roz: Oh, okay Mims-

Jocille: 104, 104.

Roz: Okay. Mims Colored School 104.

Jocille: 104, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay. Um, did um, let me ask you this uh, uh, at the Warren Estate, what happened to the houses that were there? Did they burn down or were they torn down?

Jocille: Well, our home, the original home burned in uh ... January 18th, 1956.

Roz: Okay.

Jocille: Um, now, my aunt's home uh, Aunt Annie uh, her home burned, well, after that, after the Moore accident, her home burned. Uh, my uncle's home who's was to the south of the school, that property was sold, I think the Parrish's when they put the packing house.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: That property was sold and that house I guess was torn down afterwards soon.

Roz: Uh, do you (clears throat) ever remember uh, Annie Simms? I found uh, a document uh, in the um, uh, county records that Annie had given uh, some land to have and an AME church built on the Warren Estate. Was that church ever built there? Do you ever remember a church being built on the Warren Estate at all?

Jocille: No. When that church was built, it was built at the site where it is now.

Roz: And where is that?

Jocille: It was up on uh, was it a Harry T. Moore isn't it? Yeah. It's um-

Roz: Okay. Is that St. John's?

Jocille: No, no. Uh, Shiloh.

Roz: Uh, Shiloh?

Jocille Travis(4)

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay, so Shiloh.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay, so it was Shiloh. So, so, the, the church, the land that [00:10:00] she gave out on the Warren Estate for church purposes and it states in there, if a church was not built, it would revert back to-

Jocille: To the family.

Roz: the family.

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: And I guess that-

Jocille: That's what happened.

Roz: Oh, okay. That's what happened there.

Jocille: Yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: And um, uh, let me ask you this um, what do you, what do you uh, uh, uh, Mr. Crandall Warren-

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: was your uh-

Jocille: Brother.

Roz: brother and um, Mr. Crandall uh, was uh, very instrumental I understand in getting a lot of improvements done here in Mims. What did he accomplish? As a, what were the accomplishments as a result of his hard work in the early days? Do you remember?

Jocille: Well, one thing that he was instrumental in um, getting a civic league you know, among the um ... Well, I guess you want me to say black. We weren't black then. We were colored (laughing).

Roz: Uh-huh, I ...

Jocille: But uh, uh, and that was a help to the community. He was uh, instrumental in the getting information regarding the NAACP and giving that ins- uh, information to uh, Harry T. Moore and he in turn got the first NAACP Chapter organized here. So, um-

Roz: So, he was very instrumental in-

Jocille: As far as civic uh-

Roz: League?

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: Okay. Uh, what do you remember about the Moores?

Jocille: ... Well, uh, she was my first cousin.

Roz: Oh.

Jocille: And uh ... uh, he taught school. When she met him, he was carrying uh, well, they used canvas [00:12:00] insurance way back you know.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: And he was doing that and then he went to teaching school and uh, like I said, after he got into the NAACP uh, he started to really utilizing it to help fight for justice for the colored people. Yeah.

Roz: And I understand, he was instrumental in getting uh, uh, the population uh, registered voters.

Jocille: Oh, yes. Yeah.

Roz: And also uh, uh, he was very instrumental to get equal pay for the uh-

Jocille: Teachers.

Roz: teachers, yeah.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Uh, uh, do you uh, when he was uh, principal at um, uh, Mims School, is that correct that it was colored school? Wha- wha- what, what was his-

Jocille: He was principal of the colored school in Titusville.

Roz: In Titusville, okay-

Jocille: It's where this uh, service center is now.

Roz: Okay. Oh, that school.

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: Oh, okay.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: All right. Um, and uh, what do you remember um, what do you remember about um, about them uh, just prior uh, do you remember anything just prior to uh, that dreadful night, Christmas night? Do you remember some of the (clears throat) things that were going on at that time?

Jocille: Well, you know, they had been bombing buildings in uh, in Miami and uh ... we were, we were afraid of, for him. Not thinking of him being bombed but we always thought somebody would try to pick him off, ambush him or something you know, kill him that way. Uh, nobody at, had any thoughts of him being bombed but uh, the Thanksgiving [00:14:00] prior to the bombing, I had a dream uh, that he had been bombed and that I told my mother about it and uh, she said, "Well, have you told the rest of the family?" I said, "No, I haven't said anything to anybody but you."

And it just so happened when he was bombed that night uh, I remember sitting up in the bed. I don't know if the force from the bombing caused me to sit. I have no idea how I came to that (chuckles) position but I was sitting up in the bed trying to wake my husband up, telling him Mr. Moore has been bombed. He said, "Mr. Moore has been bombed. How you know it?" I said, "I know it. Just get up. Get up and go over and you know, see about it." And so, he got up and um, took the car and went on over there. Well, he didn't come back when I thought he should and so, I told my mother I'm going to walk over there.

Now, mind you now, this is in the woods (laughs). Virtually, you would say it was the woods because there was a grove and then all around you is woods you know palmettos and whatnot. And uh, she didn't want me to go over there. I wasn't really feeling really very good at the time but uh, I got out that night. I never would have walked that area alive (chuckles) but do you know, I walked over there that night without any fear whatsoever, nothing ever dawned on me

uh, but of course, when I got there, they had already carried him to Sanford to the uh, hospital because he was dead when he got there but um ...

Roz: How about Mrs. Moore?

Jocille: Well, she, she lived uh, a week [00:16:00] from his ... funeral, the day of his funeral. Mm-hmm (affirmative). She lived one week (clears throat).

Roz: ... Well, it was a tragedy that uh, something like this happened uh, in the community.

Jocille: Yes, well you know, like I said, we, (coughs) nobody ever thought of being bombed. We always thought that ... Well, you hear him if he goes some place that they'll kill him you know, shoot him or something like that. We never thought of it being that way you know, and that was really a tragedy.

Roz: Yes, it was.

Jocille: Yeah, yeah.

Roz: Uh, well, his, their uh, work that they did uh, for all of the population uh, not only here but nationwide uh, uh, for the freedom that the teachers uh, have, have to know today and, and for the black community. Um, the building um, the Harry T. uh, Moore Center uh, will be-

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: a tribute to their work and I hope that uh, it will be a repository for uh, the uh, history in the area-

Jocille: Of the area.

Roz: and uh, of the work that they did to exemplify all of the accomplishments in the area. Um, I want to ask you something else too (clears throat). Um, uh, what um, uh, what uh, what are your recollections or, or what do you think the, the best thing that has come from this tragedy? What are some of the positive things that have come from this tragedy? If the, if you can mention any positive things ... like for instance the, it has, it, it's brought the community together, the black community together. Uh, has it uh, has it uh, made an awareness that uh, people have uh, worked harder, more people are voting for their rights [00:18:00].

Jocille: ... I tell you ... Ben Green said it best when he said the man before his time ... what he did was really paving a way for uh, desegregation. I guess at the time,

we didn't know it but uh, it was opening up avenues for that (clears throat). Now, the, when he was bombed, I had uh, some of the white residents uh, to come to my home and ... we didn't, we had no idea that this was going on you know.

Roz: Yes.

Jocille: And we don't want you to think that we are having anything to do with it. One family had just moved and bought in Titusville. If we had known this, we never would have moved here, you know. So, there were people who just came out openly and said, "Well, we never had any idea that this was going on." Basically, here uh, in Mims and Titusville, we had our problems but the problems to me were not as bad as there were at other places. Um ... Now, you couldn't go in a dress shop and try on a dress. Uh, you couldn't try on a hat ... Those kinds of things. So, but even in Orlando there were places there that you couldn't even [00:20:00] do that you know and uh, I think that it really helped to open up the hearts of people as people black and white. I think it helped to do that. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: It's a very positive thing. We were talking about uh-

Male: Echo in [inaudible 00:20:32] (clears throat).

Roz: some of the positive things that uh, that uh, came out this um, uh, and uh, is there anything else that you think uh, uh, the, the relationships in the community uh, uh, have developed since then?

Jocille: Well, uh, the development as the results of voting helped quite a bit. Uh, and still is helping. Uh, the fact that um, teachers began to be recognized uh, as far as salaries were concerned. They were not given equal salaries as such at first but the, the salaries were raised. They were making uh, you know, more money and uh ... then uh, job wise uh, it opened up more jobs for people. Our one disadvantage here um, that we had as uh, colored people was the fact that in our schools, you speak of education being [00:22:00] separate but equal that it was equal only to the extent that if you had a certain amount of students, you could have certain amount of subject matter. So that our kids in high school are until in the 1960's were not even taught typing things like that. So, uh, as a girl finishing high school could not go out and get a job as a stenographer or a secretary any place because they had no skills.

Roz: Oh, I understand in the early days (clears throat) also in the uh, uh, colored schools uh, that uh, uh, that the uh, books and uh, uh, the supplies were, were

not plentiful either. Where, where did the, where did the books, most of them were secondhand and-

Jocille: When I came along, my parents had to buy every book that I used then later uh, in the '30s, they started handing down the books from the white schools. Well, needless to say, these books were not in the best of conditions. Some of them, the most of them, the backs were off, some of them pages are missing. So, you were teaching out of uh, book uh, that everybody did not have the same lesson then (chuckles).

Roz: Oh.

Jocille: You know, this actually happened, this, this-

Roz: Uh, do you remember in the college schools, did you have extracurricular activities? Uh, like for instance, did you have uh, uh, the, anything in the arts at all, study-

Jocille: No. Nothing like that.

Roz: How about [00:24:00] sports?

Jocille: Um, the sports at that time was uh, basketball.

Roz: Basketball.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay, uh, do you, do you remember um, um, uh, any of the um, any of the members of the team uh, basketball team uh, what, for instance when in that, are we talking when you were in high school or-

Jocille: Well, no. I didn't finish high school. They didn't even have a high school when I finished. I finished eighth grade.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: Then I had to go away to boarding school. Uh, there was no high school here for college-

Roz: Oh, at that time there was no high school and what time period was this?

Jocille: This was back in the early '30s.

Roz: '30s, okay. Where did you go to boarding school?

Jocille: At Bethune-Cookman.

Roz: Bethune-Cookman, wonderful.

Jocille: Yeah.

Roz: Wonderful and uh, and um, tell us something about Bethune-Cookman uh ...

Jocille: Well, uh, it was um, Mrs. Bethune was living [00:24:55] at the time and uh, you got to know her. She, she knew every student by name (chuckles) and um, I felt that uh, it was a sort of a cultural uh, center that you learn to do things you know. My mother had uh, was a graduate of Hampton in uh, Home Ecs and she taught Home Ec at Bethune-Cookman at one time and uh, in fact, that's where my father met her and of course, when I went there, I was in high school. Uh, Mrs. Bethune walks in the uh, Home Ec room and she tells the Home Ec teacher, "I want you to put this little girl to work."

And uh, that meant that I was supposed to start [sewing 00:25:56] because I guess she thought I knew how to sew [00:25:59]. (laughing) But anyway, uh, I learned. I put myself, I told my kids today, I did not have a free period because I busied myself. I got into everything that I could get into when I was out of my class.

Roz: Wonderful.

Jocille: Uh, uh, I took typing. They allowed me to go down the street to take typing. I learned to type. I took shorthand and uh, I took music uh, being in the uh, high school, I didn't have to take Home Ec but I busied myself. I got in Home Ec room and uh, I learned, well, I've learned to sew. I made all of my clothes while I was in school and uh, I did all of the embroidery uh, crocheting. The edges on [luncheon sets 00:27:05] I did all of the crocheting for that. They used to have a bazaar every year and uh, oh, I'd be up sometimes to 12, 1:00 at night crocheting edges for these [luncheon sets 00:27:19] and uh-

Roz: Do you still have any of them?

Jocille: No. Like I said, the home burned in '56. We lost everything, everything except what we had on our backs.

Roz: Oh, gosh.

Jocille: Yeah, yeah.

Roz: All your old photos, everything-

Jocille: Everything.

Roz: Oh, that's a tragedy.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah but then I got to meet uh, Dr. and Mrs. [00:27:43] Brown. He was uh, the president of the Buster Brown Shoe Company.

Roz: Oh.

Jocille: So, I got to meet them personally and she used to come out and sit on the campus and uh, crochet with me.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: Yeah. So, uh, I made lot [00:28:00] of contacts with people who came there. They were trustees and uh, of the school that I got to know personally and uh, it, it was a cultural experience.

Roz: How uh, (clears throat) approximately, how many students were in your class at the time if you remember?

Jocille: I had seven.

Roz: Seven (laughs) in your class and they boarded, you boarded at the school.

Jocille: Yeah, I boarded at the school. You can imagine my room and board was \$17 a month.

Roz: Oh, (laughing) wow. Oh, uh-

Jocille: \$17 a month, yeah.

Roz: [inaudible 00:28:44] (clears throat). Uh, do you remember the train that went through Titusville, did you ever-

Jocille: Oh, yes.

Roz: [crosstalk 00:28:50]

Jocille: We rode the train. Oh, many number of times, that was the way, uh, my mother's people lived in Daytona and that was our regular means of going back and forth.

Roz: This was the McMillan's?

Jocille: Yes, uh-huh and uh, we rode the train any number of times. I can remember the steam engine then when the uh, uh, streamline came along, I remember the first time it came through Titusville and I went down and a cousin of mine to uh, to see the train you know and well, I've always been a person, I just never thought of black and white of us going some places where I'm going you know.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: (chuckles) Then we went down to uh, view the train and David was walking behind me and he kept nudging me, "Move on, move on." I said, "David, we want to see." "Move on, move on." He kept nudging me (laughing) all the time (laughing) [00:30:00]. Oh, goodness but it, it's been an experience. I, you know, I have lived here all of my life in and out then I went to college. I was away for a while but ... uh, I have seen a lot of changes and as I said, I don't think we had it basically, as tough as some other areas because uh, well, they had some lynchings here but that was prior to my time. I don't remember any lynchings here as I grew up.

Roz: [How were that 00:30:45]-

Jocille: They had uh, they had a lynching in Daytona while I was there in school. Um-

Roz: Was this in the early '30s?

Jocille: In the early '30s, yeah, this was the 17 year old college boy that uh, they claimed he gave uh, wolf whistle to some white woman and some of the family called the [Meriwethers 00:31:10] got him and drug him down on what we called a shell road. The roads weren't paved but they had the shell as the basic uh, coating for it (sniffs) and they drug him down the shell road. I don't know whatever happened to that family. Uh, they kind kept things hushed mouthed [00:31:31] you know, wouldn't talk about it a lot. This-

Roz: But in this, but in this area, it was actually pretty peaceful, wasn't it?

Jocille: It was more or less peaceful, yeah.

Roz: The, did uh, did the uh, from what I understand talking with most people uh, the community lived in harmony most of the time. Uh, there were a few little ups and downs-

Jocille: You have your little ups and-

Roz: nothing to really worry about.

Jocille: Nothing that really ... [00:32:00] No. Nothing that ... I don't think we had that much to worry about because uh, you could go just about most any place you wanted to go you know uh-

Roz: That's what I understand.

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: That uh, talking to different people uh, that's what they say that the you know, it was, it was pretty free to go and come as anybody pleases.

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: Everybody were friends-

Jocille: Oh, yeah.

Roz: Black and whites, they went to each other's weddings [00:32:28]-

Jocille: Well, you know, my father um, mentioned when the mail, they used to have the Buck on the track out here. It was called Buck going to enterprise.

Roz: Oh, that was the name of the train?

Jocille: Yeah, (laughs) they called her Buck (laughs).

Roz: Called it Buck.

Jocille: And um, uh, that brought the mail into the area and uh, he uh, says any number of times, he had to go over and pick up the mail and take it to the post office, which used to be uh, where that [Home's 00:33:08] furniture place is. There was a store, the post office was in that and he used to have to take the mail over there because nobody would [seemingly 00:33:19]. In those days, prohibition you know, people would lay around the station drunk and uh, so, he said, he went in the post office one day and uh, her name was Becky, Becky Mims, in fact

her [00:33:38] people who is Mims was named after and he said she was crying and said she couldn't get the mail.

She couldn't get nobody to go over and pick up the mail for her and so, he said, "Miss Becky, I'll go over and get the mail for you." "Well, Joe, I don't want you to go out there now and get in no trouble." So, he went [00:34:00] on over and walked up on the platform, walked in the place and asked for the mail. Nobody said anything to him. He walked on out and carried the mail back over to her. Um, (clears throat) he had the first packing house in this area.

Roz: Yes, I, tell us about that. Where was that located?

Jocille: It was located at the old home place. He had this huge packing house where they uh, uh, packed fruit and shipped it.

Roz: And I, and I understand they also made boxes there.

Jocille: They made boxes and uh, one of his box makers was Clyde Pyrtle.

Roz: Oh.

Jocille: When he first came to this area that was his first job working with, for my father.

Roz: And, and Clyde was a white person (laughs).

Jocille: Yes. He was white (laughing).

Roz: Um, so, uh-

Jocille: Yeah.

Roz: Yeah, I also uh, uh, what else did, did Joe do on his farm? Uh, I read articles uh, he made the best [syrup 00:35:00], right?

Jocille: Well, yeah (chuckles) they said (laughs). Everybody said that uh, his [syrup 00:35:05] was good. We never had any problems (clears throat). We raised uh, used to have a bean crop. He shipped his beans to New York. Uh, he had watermelons every year. People came from as far as [Ft. Pierce 00:35:25] to buy his watermelons and get his corn. The Parrishes every year, they uh, came in, well, Joe, see we get the prized melon because every year, he would have a watermelon that would weigh at least 100 pounds.

Roz: Oh my goodness.

Jocille: Yeah, nobody else, they come in and nobody else gets that melon but us (laughs).

Roz: Oh, isn't that wonderful?

Jocille: But I know everyone, they always talked about his uh, [syrup 00:35:59] and you know [00:36:00] see we were right on, that was US One then because you didn't-

Roz: Old Dixie.

Jocille: Old Dixie, you didn't uh, the US One didn't exist until 1925 (sniffs) and uh, people traveling in the morning so he'd be at 2, 3:00 in the morning with this uh, this juice going on the [kiln 00:36:26] and people would smell it and they'd stop and come back, "What is that we smell?" (laughing) "What are you doing here? What are you making here?" (laughs) and uh, then he'd have to tell them the whole story and then go grind some juices. They never had juice before and he'd have to grind some juice out for them and uh, then he developed uh, what we call the hot [sour 00:36:51] (clears throat).

It was made uh, with the juice of the sour orange. After he brought his juice to a boil and skimmed the skimmings off it and everything, he would take some of that juice uh, and mix it with the orange juice and it was be hot and cold and you drink it. It was the best tasting thing you ever tasted.

Roz: Oh, wow.

Jocille: Every called it the hot [sour 00:37:23] and anytime, anybody came there, uh, they have never been there before. They had to taste his hot (chuckles) [sour 00:37:30].

Roz: Oh, that's wonderful.

Jocille: Yeah.

Roz: That's wonderful. Uh, I understand Joe was uh, (clears throat) was just a pure delight in the community uh, in the early days and he used to take uh, I have accounts that he used to take up um, some of his wonderful vegetables and, and uh, share it with different people in the community-

Jocille: Oh, he always did. The old people that existed then, whatever he raised, they got some of it.

Roz: Yeah, [00:38:00] he was a wonderful person.

Jocille: Yeah, he [would see 00:38:02] that uh-

Roz: Yeah, what uh, (clears throat), uh, what um, uh, what do you remember about um, uh, uh, let's see, how old was, was, did you and Crandall uh, grow up here in, in Mims? Crandall was uh-

Jocille: No, Crandall was uh ... Was he six uh, well he was six years older than I was. It was, yeah. He grew up basically here. He, he was born in um ...

Roz: Monticello, Virginia.

Jocille: Virginia.

Roz: Virginia.

Jocille: I can't recall (laughs).

Roz: Yeah, he was born in Virginia.

Jocille: I can't recall the name of the place now. Um, it's not far from uh ... the uh, oh cemetery. What's the name of that big cemetery?

Roz: Arlington.

Jocille: Arlington, Virginia is where he's [00:38:59], yeah.

Roz: [inaudible 00:38:59] (laughing) uh, some of your other relatives that helped to homestead this area because they were true pioneer family in this area uh, uh, do you uh, do you remember anybody talking about uh, Rachel or Addie? Uh, Addie Warren?

Jocille: Addie Warren was my father's daughter by his first wife.

Roz: Okay and her and his first wife were-

Jocille: Was Lula.

Roz: Lula Caraway [00:39:25].

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: Okay and um, uh, do you remember as, uh, any of the uh, seeing any photographs of any of these people [00:39:36]?

Jocille: Oh, yes. I had all that you know, but like I said, all of that's in ashes (laughs).

Roz: Yeah, that's shame.

Jocille: Yeah.

Roz: That's a shame and they're all buried at LaGrange Cemetery-

Jocille: Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: [00:39:47]. Um, and uh, but they were all really true pioneers of uh, the area. Uh, do you remember some of the elder ok, elder families uh, who were pioneer uh, came here [00:40:00] in the early days, some of their, their names? Who was in the area when you were a little girl? Do you remember their name?

Jocille: Well, you were talking about the [poses 00:40:12] uh, uh, William Grant, uh ... uh, his brother Ezekiel Grant and the ma- [McClendons 00:40:21], the McKenzies ... um, those were some of the older ... families that were here.

Roz: How about, how about Sawyer? Do you remember-

Jocille: The Sawyers?

Roz: Yeah and do you remember a lady called Carrie Sawyer?

Jocille: Carrie Sawyer.

Roz: Yeah and how about Mabel Battles? Do you remember a lady named Mabel Battles by any chance?

Jocille: Mm-mm.

Roz: And of course, the Campbells.

Jocille: Was there, they were all kin people.

Roz: They were all kin.

Jocille: They're kin.

Roz: Okay.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Well, yeah, uh, uh, tell us the uh, how your uh, family, the names in the your family tree because they're all true uh, true pioneers of the area. What are some of the names that uh, that is connected with uh, with your family?

Jocille: Okay. The Campbells, uh, that stemmed from Lula Warren, the oldest sister uh ... To- (clears throat) Tom Warren, well, I found some of his ancestors but he went up. He left and went up around Gainesville. So, he had no one around here. Uh, so [Society 00:41:50] Warren that uh, was here in the area. Annie Simms, [Maleria 00:41:57] Currie and uh, [00:42:00] Ida Currie went to West Palm Beach. Um ... Gertrude lives here but she had no uh, heirs ... and my daddy.

Roz: Okay. So, that's [inaudible 00:42:25].

Jocille: The basic uh, I think, I think, I don't think of the, [of 00:42:29] anyone but the Campbells, I guess and my uncle [Society 00:42:36] have the largest uh, heritage part of the, the Campbells because uh, one daughter uh, Agnes was very prolific and she had a very prolific family.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: Uh-huh.

Roz: And where did they live?

Jocille: She lives up in uh, she lives, she's in Orange City.

Roz: In Orange City, okay.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Okay and, and that's the Campbell family who lived on homestead on North Merritt Island?

Jocille: That's the part, that's part of it, uh, that stemmed from Lula uh, Lucy, Lucy ah, Warren because she married uh, [Butler 00:43:15] Campbell.

Roz: Uh-huh.

Jocille: Yeah, so that was the Campbell, uh, you know starting over in Merritt Island. Yeah. Allanhurst [00:43:25] the Haulover (laughing) you name it (laughing).

Roz: Yeah, they were, uh, uh, do you remember uh, uh, going over to the island for visits over there at all?

Jocille: Oh, we used to go over there.

Roz: How did you get over there first of all?

Jocille: Woods. Well, now, going around through uh ... Oakhill side, that road was what we called the shell road uh, and whenever it rained, the road would be pitted and you would [00:44:00] bounce and bounce and bounce (laughing) in the car. Sometimes, you could hardly hold the car when the road it'd turn around in the roads, you know. They've used to have to scrape the road. They had a grader they called it. They kept the road uh, graded uh, and that was our way of going over there but then, you get over there, you're in the woods. [palmetto 00:44:25] uh, flats, trees, bushes, you know, and mosquitoes. Oh my goodness (laughs). Uh, I said today, I don't ever uh, complain about a mosquito because I have seen the time when I would walk out of my house and you do like this and you wouldn't know what color you were.

Roz: Oh my goodness.

Jocille: Now that's when I was a kid.

Roz: Oh goodness.

Jocille: We didn't have anything to spray like your Off today. There wasn't anything like that spray. We have to carry a [smudge 00:45:04] around which was inconvenient but if you were going to sit any place, you better have that [smudge 00:45:10].

Roz: Now, what's a [smudge 00:45:11]?

Jocille: Uh, you would take an old rag, get some pine needles and some moss and light it and kind of get some coals and put, what we used to get uh, [B Brand 00:45:27] uh ... powder on it so, insect powder. That was the only think you had to repel insects.

Roz: Oh my goodness.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Uh, do you remember when any big storms came through where it happened, any big hurricanes like there was a huge hurricane in '26 and a couple in the old days. What did you do when a bad storm came? How did you get the warnings?

Jocille: (chuckles) You didn't get any [00:46:00] warnings. You ... Well, the old folks used to uh, kind of could predict the weather and my father and his brother, they could just about tell you which way the wind was going to blow and when the wind was coming up and uh, I guess they just studied the weather as they grew up and it just became a part of them but we didn't go anywhere. We're still right in our home and we, that's where we weathered the storms out. Only thing that we ever got damaged from was uh, several trees sometimes would be uprooted but nothing ever happened to the houses. So, uh, we never got electric lights until uh ... 1928 um, on Old Dixie there was a German family that got electric lights. Uh, they ran a pole to their home.

Roz: Do you remember their name?

Jocille: Selke.

Roz: Selke.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Selke, S-E-L-K-E (clears throat) and uh, so, when we got lights, we had to pay for the uh, poles running from their house to our house which was uh, two poles, took, two poles. Uh, three poles to bring it around to the service and we had to pay \$40 a pole. That's how we got lights then in [00:48:00] 1928. I had my first electric iron in 1928.

Roz: Oh, (laughs) that's great (laughing).

Jocille: And of course, we got our, well everything then electric. We got our first uh, refrigerator, which was uh, a Frigidaire, and uh, after that, um, Roosevelt was president in the '30s.

Roz: How about the Depression?

Jocille: The Depression, yeah, well, that was a hold back to that the uh ... I don't remember exactly the, what year it was in early '30s. So, when uh, we did bank on the corner of uh, Main and Washington ... um, was Titusville Bank. That was the bank that we, my father used to bank there and he also banked at another bank on the corner of Julia and Washington.

Roz: That was Indian River Bank.

Jocille: Indian River Bank, yeah.

Roz: [crosstalk 00:49:23]

Jocille: Well, Indian River Bank closed on him ... uh, he didn't lose a whole lot in that one but the Titusville Bank see, okay, like I said, he had uh, used to ship his beans and all to uh, New York. Well, he went in at the end of the season to cash his checks and all and put his money in the bank and he did that one day and the next day, the doors at the bank was closed (chuckles).

Roz: Oh no.

Jocille: Oh, [00:50:00] needless to say, we never got anything out of it you know. Then you didn't have the insurance now like they uh, do today on your accounts. So, you know, he never [realized 00:50:14] anything out of it.

Roz: But they were hard times in the early days-

Jocille: Well, you know, there were hard times and I guess we have hard times but then we raised a lot our own vegetables and we were able to sell them then, so we managed you know and lot of things that uh ... sewing like say my mother made our clothes. So, we didn't have to worry about buying ready-made clothes and there are a lot of things that we just did ourselves you know, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: And those who, and those who were industrious like that prospered in [hard times 00:51:04]-

Jocille: Oh, yeah.

Roz: So, everything was okay then, and you made it quite [00:51:07] well. Um, what are the biggest, what are the biggest um, uh, improvements that you can say that has happened from the time that uh, you were young to the present time in this area?

Jocille: Oh, automobiles (laughing) even you [say 00:51:29] go to town which was Titusville, we used to have to go either in the wagon depending on the, what we had to pick up, or by the buggy and then uh, later we got a car and transportation has been I would say, you know, of course now, uh, uh, facilities being able to go to different stores [00:52:00] and things like that. It's been a major factor also but uh-

Roz: And what's the, what's the um, what's the uh, most important thing that you, a message that you can give to the youth of today?

Jocille: ... Uh, to me ... they need to just get busy. There's too much freedom. They are too free. Um, when I tell my grandkids, I can, I, I didn't even know what the word

bored was because I never had a dull moment. I always had something to do. We did house cleaning. I did [fancy 00:52:58] work. I'd help, I did some of my sewing. I had to practice um, music. You were given an hour to go play. We had something, we had cows. I would help milk the cows and there was always something to do. I was never bored. We always had something to do but uh, and even doing my homework. When we got a radio, when that came in, your homework was first. If there was time to listen to the radio before bedtime, fine. There's too much freedom today. The, the kids today they don't, they don't, even book learning now doesn't help them because they don't have to think.

Roz: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jocille: There's, you know, they don't have to use their minds and I think that to challenge them now, to [00:54:00] use their minds, busy their hands. Do something.

Roz: And, and uh, how about the family life, what's the difference that you see-

Jocille: The, well, the difference when I came along, my mother was a housewife. My daddy did not allow her to go out to work. That cannot happen today but the families need to stick together. They need to know where the children are. I was, I was in college before I ever stayed out until 12:00. Um, today you got your nine and 10-year-old kids, the parents don't know where they are. My children were in high school. Their curfew was 11:00 and they knew I better hear a key turning in the door or you better be on the telephone letting me know exactly where you are.

Um, my son was in 12th grade and uh, that was the first time he was allowed to stay out until 12:00 but you are to let me know where you are. Uh, I think families now have be- well, the children have so much freedom, uh, that families think that uh, well, I've got to the sa- they, they got to this. The others are doing certain, certain things so they got to be along with them. I [00:56:00] don't see it that way. I think that we need to be over our household. That's the way I feel about it.

Roz: Also, uh, uh, I was told uh, too that if uh, children in a neighborhood stepped out of the line, the neighbors would get on about it-

Jocille: Oh, yeah. You didn't, today, I sit on my [car port 00:56:23] and I tell everybody, you have this program on TV As The World Turns [00:56:29] well, I sit on my [car port 00:56:31] and I see the world go by ... They want you to hear oh, my goodness. If I was going to bawl you out, it's almost being a whisper. Nobody would hear it, maybe but you, if my mom and dad ever got it back, that would be

(laughing) but today, they want you to know exactly everything they're saying and people and I guess I'm kind of bad about that but ...

[When 00:57:09] I see it I said uh, I have to say something and people said, "Well, you know, you're not, you're not supposed to say anything to their children." I said, "Well, honey. I will have to say it. I will say it to the momma and daddy but I'm going to say it." I let them know they're wrong you know but I don't think there's enough of that going on. Even in the churches today, they let the kids come in and they can sit back and they can grin and laugh and talk. Well, when I'm sitting near it, I'm saying something about it and then when I mention to the minister, well, something should be said from the pulpit. Well, you [00:58:00] can't say anything to the children today. Well, I will but you got to take it on yourself to do it.

Roz: That's right and parents have to remember that they're parents (clears throat) and adults remember that they are kids.

Jocille: I have yet to have anyone to say to me, "Don't you say anything to my child." I have yet [for 00:58:26] a person to even say that.

Roz: I think uh, I think as elders, uh, your responsibility lies into it and to try to nurture the young people as they're coming up and I think uh, I think children like to have discipline and they like, it's a, it's a way of showing care.

Jocille: Oh, yeah.

Roz: And uh, I think, I think they need more attention-

Jocille: More attention.

Roz: and uh, and to keep them straight as they say.

Jocille: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz: Well, I thank you for coming today. Is there anything else you would like to add that you can think of about the family, about uh, uh, about Mims or anything at all?

Jocille: Mm, no, not really. Um-

Roz: Uh, what, uh, let me (clears throat) ask you this, uh, I, uh, how do you feel about the Moore Center being established here? What, do you think uh, what do you think this is going to do for the community?

Jocille: ... You know, it would be an ideal thing but we have got to educate our children and I don't see this being done into what he did. Uh, this, this is something as a black, as black people today, um, because uh, when I was born I was a negro (laughs) [01:00:00] then I became colored. Now, then they say, you're black. Now, um, I'm Asian Afro-American. So, I don't know what I am (laughing) but as a, as, as black Americans, we and, and I would say, I would say in Brevard County because he worked the whole Brevard County but we need to let our children know.

I met people today that don't even know anything. I'd, I'd run into schoolteachers and this is, they don't, they don't even know, didn't know anything about this book [*Before His Time* 01:00:49]. The children don't, well, "Who is Mr. Moore?" "I don't know." So, we're not telling them. It's not being taught in the schools. We as uh, people in the community and our churches, basically, I would say in the churches because this is something I have advocated in my church that we have a bit of black history brought out every Sunday in Sunday school to let the children know who they are, where they came from and everything.

Roz: I think it's important that the uh, history of the black communities all over should be documented and uh, unfortunately, in the past a lot has never been written down but I think uh, a part of this project is to document it so children in future generations will know.

Jocille: Will know.

Roz: what the (clears throat) threads of fabric, uh, how this, uh, uh, community was put together and the people [01:02:00] who paved the way that for the, what they enjoy today and I'm hoping that uh, part of the um, uh, charter of the Harry T. Moore Center and Museum would be a repository uh, to uh, for documentation of the black community and all the rich history and the heritage of the community.

Jocille: All the community, that's right.

Roz: And uh, I thank you for your time-

Jocille: Well-

Roz: and uh, and if you ever have anything else that you'd like (laughs) to share with us, please call.

Jocille: Okay.

Roz: And uh, uh, and uh, your family and extensions of your family were two pioneers of the area and we thank them for paving the way for uh, future generations to have a good life here in Mims.