

You are watching an interview of Roy Harris Wall, who was born in 1889 in Ellaville, Georgia and moved to Eau Gallie, Florida in 1916. Roy Wall spent 50 years on the Rockledge Volunteer Fire Department, served on Rockledge City Council for 16 years, and was also a member of the Cocoa Chamber of Commerce. Roy discusses numerous topics including: the Great Depression, witnessing the history of aviation, property values in Brevard, racial relations, and his working and personal life (including being a distinguished member of the local Masonic Lodge)

In this interview, Roy remarks about working at the Cocoa Bank and Trust Company when it was forced to close in 1928 as result of the economic depression. Roy discusses these challenging “hard times” throughout the interview, mentioning his efforts to find work, his wife’s return to the workforce, and simply struggling to get by. Roy’s fortune changed when he began working at the S.F. Travis Hardware Company. Roy expresses his great admiration for its owner, Mr. Travis, who is described as a generous and honest business owner. Roy worked for Travis Hardware as a bookkeeper for 32 ½ years, until he was 80 years old. There is also a short discussion of the history of the S.F. Travis Company, which began as a hardware boat selling its wares up and down the river. The company is now over 130 years old and is still family owned and operated in Cocoa, Florida.

While the years he spent between working at the bank and Travis Hardware were difficult, Roy also lived to witness the opposite economic conditions in the form of rising property values in Brevard County. He discusses how property, especially along the beach, increased in value tremendously. The relationship between blacks and whites is also briefly discussed, including a reading of one of his wife’s poems from the 1920’s on the subject of racial equality. Finally, there is also discussion of Roy witnessing the progress of aviation. He mentions watching the Wright Brothers’ Kitty Hawk fly at the State Fair in Georgia, witnessing space rockets take off in Brevard County, and even flying in an airplane piloted by astronaut Wally Schirra, a fellow Mason.

Roy Wall passed away on January 4, 1996 at the age of 106. This interview from 1992 was conducted when Roy was 103 years old. Today, Roy Wall Boulevard in Rockledge is named for him.