

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with Timothy Mims

Conducted by Holly Bergdorf
January 23, 1985

Timothy Mims was born on December 15, 1909, at West Point, Mississippi, the son of Thomas Mims and Nancy Strong Mims. He and his family moved to Cedar Rapids in 1917, and lived at 1734 Eighth Street SE. Timothy attended Tyler, McKinley Jr. High, and the old Washington High School. He loved sports and participated on championship baseball and football teams while growing up. After high school, Mr. Mims worked at Wilsons, Ford Paving Company, and Union Station. He married Laura Miller in 1961. She died in 1984. His memories include schools and sports in Cedar Rapids, the Depression years, and the NAACP.

INTERVIEW TOPICS

CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1 --When were you born? Where?
- 1,2 --How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- 2 --What are your parents' names?
- 26, 31 --Where did you go to school?
- 23-24 --Are you married or single?
- Did you raise a family? How big?
- 20,23 --What has been your occupation (career) during your adult
- 27,45 years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

- 1. Transportation
 - 17, 18, 26 --Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
 - 18, 19, 26 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
 - 13, 14 --Horses and First Automobiles
 - 12, 13 --Mud roads and the seedling mile
 - 26-27 --Hunter Airport and the first planes
 - Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)
- 2. Communications
 - 8,39 --Newspapers
 - 30-40 --Radios
 - Advertising
 - 40 --Telephones

B. People in the Community

- 1. Amusements/Recreation
 - 31, 29-30 --Motion Pictures
 - 6, 31 --Cedar Rapids Parks
 - 10, 11 --Dances
 - Carnival Week
 - Chautauqua
 - Community Theater
 - Little Gallery
 - Symphony Orchestra
 - 30-31 --Circus
 - 31 --Greene's Opera House
 - Amusement Parks (Alamo)
 - 41-42 --Camps
 - Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA) Jane Boyd
- 2. Famous Characters
 - 28-29 --Cherry Sisters
 - 31-32 --Grant Wood
 - Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
 - 32 --Marvin Cone

10-07
2005.10.59

3. Lifestyle

- ⁶ --Life before air conditioning
- Winter Activities
- 11-12 --Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
- Clothing
- Toys
- Saloons/Taverns
- Farm Life
- 4-6, 36-39 --sports

4. Family Life

- 2, 9 --Household Help
- Women's Roles
- 6, 9, 12, 15, 42 --Childrens' Activities/Behavior
- Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue Laws)

5. Ethnic/Minority Life

- 33 --Immigrants (Czech, Greek, German, etc.)
- Indians
- 3, 6, 21, 25-26, 43, 45-48 --Segregation of Blacks
- 41, 42 --Jobs Available
- 45-46 --NAACP

C. Organizations and Institutions in the Community

1. Education

- 3-5, 6, 7, 19, 33, 34 --Cedar Rapids Schools
- 32-38 --Coe College
- 32 --Mount Mercy College
- 32 --Cornell College

2. Government

- City Services
- Streets/Roads
- Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)

3. Medical

- ³⁵ --Hospitals
- Patient-Doctor Relationship
- Broken Bones
- 33, 34, 35 --Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
- 34, 35, 36 --House Calls
- 35 --Home Delivery of Babies

4. Business and Economy

- 20,41 --Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
- Local Brewing Companies
- 17 --Retail Businesses /Department Stores
- Professions
- Banking and Finance
- 26 --Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
- 20,21,43,44 --Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
- 44 --Farmers Market
- Mills on Cedar River
- Buildings Erected
- 1,18,20 --Manual Labor/Types of Jobs
- Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)

5. Attitudes/Values

- 42 --Children/Discipline
- Sex/Petting
- Charity
- Divorce
- Work
- 22 --Working women, Voting Rights for Women
- Patriotism (World War I)

D. Historic Events in and Outside the Community

1. Catastrophic Events

- Clifton Hotel Fire (1903)
- 27-28 --Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
- 22-23 --Bank Closings (1933)
- Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
- 28 --Public Library Murder(1921)

2. National Historic Events

- 22 --Womens' Suffrage
- 7-8 --World War I
- 9-10 --Roaring 20's
- 9-10 --Prohibition
- 19,22,23,24,25 --Great Depression

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with: Timothy Mims
Conducted by: Holly Bergdorf
Date: January 23, 1985
Place: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

HB: Mr. Mims, where were your parents born, or when were you born, I should say?

Mims: When was I born?

HB: Yes.

Mims: December 15, 1909 at West Point, Mississippi.

HB: And when did you move to Cedar Rapids?

Mims: We moved to Cedar Rapids in 1917.

HB: Why did you move to Cedar Rapids?

Mims: Well, my dad was working with a tiling firm out of Tennessee, and they came all the way north and they finished up the job in Marion, Iowa. They was putting in those tiles for sewers, you know, and that's where they wound up--in Marion, Iowa.

HB: I see, and that's where you lived then?

Mims: No, no. Of course my dad, they lived, well they commuted from Cedar Rapids to Marion, you know.

HB: Where did you first live...

Mims: Where did I first live? At 11--let's see what was it--1734 Eighth Street SE, when we first came to Cedar Rapids.

HB: What were your parents' names?

Mims: My dad was named Thomas Mims, and my mother was named Nancy.

HB: And did your mother have a job, or did she just raise...

Mims: Oh, she used to work out and do work for the rich in them days. You know what I mean--ironing and cleaning, you know, washing and ironing and cleaning house for years.

HB: Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mims: Oh yes.

HB: How many?

Mims: I had six sisters and three brothers.

HB: Quite the big family...

Mims: Yeah, pretty big--ten.

HB: Where were you in the setting, were you youngest?

Mims: I'm the youngest of the ten.

HB: When you came here to Cedar Rapids, where did you go to school at?

Mims: Tyler School.

HB: Okay, was this school just for blacks or was...

Mims: No, no, no!

HB: It was whites and blacks...

Mims: Oh yes.

HB: So you would have been what--about seven?

Mims: About seven years old, yeah, I had my seventh birthday in Cedar Rapids.

HB: What kind of subjects did you study in school?

Mims: Oh, you know, like the, you know what I mean--history, and I started from

first grade, they put me back a year, but I started from first grade and went all up. You know what I mean. What the kids normally study today, I guess.

HB: Where else did you go to school?

Mims: I went to, after I finished Tyler School, I went to McKinley Junior High School.

HB: And did you graduate from there, then?

Mims: Yes.

HB: And did you go on to High School?

Mims: I graduated from McKinley in 1927; I went to Washington High School.

HB: Were you involved in any activities in school?

Mims: Oh yeah. Sports, you know.

HB: What kind of sports?

Mims: Well, all. Of course, like when I was in my first..I'll start telling you then..now the first championship team I played on, in those days they had--Tyler went to seventh grade, and then after they graduated in this district, they'd go to Adams School for eighth. But, I played on the...

When I was eleven years old, I and another lad named Edward Quatsch, we played on the seventh grade Tyler School baseball team. Of course, we were probably in fourth or fifth grade, I can't remember now, but most of the fellows that we played with were two to three years older than we were but we played with them in the championship team, and we won the city championship in 1921.

HB: And what other schools did you play with?

Mims: Oh, at that time they played, they had the east and west side. We played against Johnson, elementary Johnson, and Arthur School on the east side, and then when they had the championship, we played against Harrison School from the west side. And they played against, I don't know, I can't remember, Madison and I can't think of the other school but we played for the city championship. We were, I guess you'd call it kind of a round robin affair, and we won the city championship it was, jeez, I can't think now, but I mean way back in 19--I don't know what it was--22 or 21, I guess it was, yes, 1921 when we won the city championship in baseball.

HB: Did you get a trophy?

Mims: Oh yes. We got a trophy and a big...yes.

HB: What other sports were you in?

Mims: Oh, basketball, you know when I got to junior high school, basketball,

soccer, activities like that. And when I was in seventh grade at McKinley I played on the..we had an undefeated team, seventh. They used to have seventh, eighth, and ninth. We lost one game in three years; of course, we still won the city championship. In ninth grade we lost one game, you know, and we still were city champions in junior high school in basketball.

HB: Were the teams pretty evenly mixed between black students or whites?

Mims: Oh yes. Roosevelt Junior High they had--at McKinley we had quite a few blacks, but I mean not many of them participated in sports. But Roosevelt Junior High School had quite a large, quite a few that did over there. Yes, they were mixed.

HB: Did you, for other activities, what did you do for play, what did you do after school?

Mims: Oh, after school, you know how kids are. We'd get out on the playground or get home, and we used to come home a lot of times from school and then go to either Tyler School or we used to go down to Tyler School playground, or either down to Sinclair Park playground and play.

HB: Do you remember what kind of games you played?

Mims: Oh, we played everything, baseball, football, track, we'd run track and everything else. You know, just all around sports.

HB: Did you do anything with girls ever or were...

Mims: What?

HB: Were girls involved in your games ever?

Mims: No, not, once in a while when we used to play over at Tyler School playground, you know how they'd like to want to play a little bit during the summer mostly. And then when we'd have at--that was at Tyler School--then they used to play. Well, you'd have soccer and different games that girls, they participated in.

HB: Did you have regular Physical Education classes in school too?

Mims: Oh yes, oh yes.

HB: Did boys and girls stay together in those types of classes or were the girls separated from the boys?

Mims: Oh no. They were separate. That was starting in Junior High School, yeah, they were separate.

HB: What about, what was it like.. well, it was right after World War I, when you moved here and were just starting more or less. Do you remember anything like when the war ended?

Mims: Oh yes. I can kind of remember that a little. Yes.

HB: What was it like? What did people do or how did they react?

Mims: Oh well, everybody was happy, and they come out with Extra papers in them days, after it was all over and they'd come out hollering, "Extra! Extra!" you know, the kids would be selling the papers.

HB: Did you ever sell papers?

Mims: Oh yes! For the Gazette, yes.

HB: How old were you about?

Mims: Oh, when I started? Oh, about 11 or 12.

HB: How long did you sell papers?

Mims: Oh, till I got to be about 15, you know, like that, and then I quit.

HB: How much did you make selling papers?

Mims: Oh, we used to get...What did we charge? It's been so long! When I started, it was three cents for the paper and we got one penny and I think the Gazette got two cents when we'd sell the papers.

HB: Did you have any other jobs when you were a boy?

Mims: Oh well, oh yes, we'd work for other people, and around the grocery stores

they'd get you to do work for them, stock the shelves, and put the pop in the refrigerator and stuff like that. You'd always have a little job that you could do if you wanted to.

HB: Did you have certain chores at home or anything like that?

Mims: Oh yeah! Sure, you got to keep...get the coal and wood in in them days, and then a lot of time, once a week, we used to have one of them big washing machines where you had to pull it with your arm, you know. And I used to have to do that once a week. Wash clothes, you know what I mean, like on Saturdays, we used to do it on Saturdays when my mother wasn't working. She'd work five days a week, and on Saturdays she'd be home, so then we'd wash on Saturdays. And we had one of them old, you know, one where you had to pull it with your arm.

HB: When we go into the 1920's, do you remember, what was the attitude of the people. I mean, it was supposed to be the roaring 20's and everybody was pretty carefree. Was that the attitude here in Cedar Rapids?

Mims: Oh, I imagine it was. Yeah, I imagine it was. I guess that was the day when they had the prohibition. Well, and then after, you know, when they used to sell a lot of the alcohol and stuff like that...bootleggers.

HB: Did you know any place in Cedar Rapids where they had bootleggers?

Mims: (Laughter) Oh yeah! I remember some of the houses but I mean that's been so many years ago. Oh yes.

HB: So they made them in their houses and stuff like that.

Mims: Well, yeah, you could go to people's houses--homes--and get home-brew, homemade beer, and some of them used to sell alcohol, and the beer.

HB: Did your parents ever indulge...

Mims: No, my mother... my dad used to drink some, you know, but my mother didn't do too much of that.

HB: Do you remember anything else about what people did for entertainment in the 20's?

Mims: Oh, well they'd have.. in them days they used to have like chicken... different people would go to folks's homes and like on Saturday you could buy a chicken dinner and stuff like that. They'd sell chicken dinner and different things and sell a little...some of them would have a little home-brew on the side, too, in them early days.

HB: Did people have dances?

Mims: Oh yeah, they'd dance. Oh yeah, we used to dance at the City Auditorium, it was the old City Auditorium downtown, they used to have...that's where we used to go to have dances when I was a young fellow starting out, and then we used to dance at the...jeez, I can't think of that ballroom that used to be right across from the Inter-Urban depot upstairs, we used to use that. And then we used the...I can't think of that, but we had several halls that we rented for dances, yes.

HB: Did you just have local bands then?

Mims: Oh no. Most of the bands were from out of town. Like from Waterloo, and sometimes they'd come from Waterloo, and sometimes down in Rock Island, Illinois, they'd come up.

HB: Did any of them later become real big bands or anything like that, do you remember?

Mims: I know one fellow used to play. He went to the University of Iowa and he played with a local--they had a local band that time--a fellow by the name of Cecil Bruton, and this fellow's name was Smith, and he was a trumpeter, see, and when he finished University of Iowa, well then he went on to play with Jimmy Lundsford Band. That was a black band back in 19--back in the 30's, early 30's. He was a great trumpeter, he stayed with them for a long time. But he graduated from the University of Iowa. His last name was Smith, I can't think of his first name, James probably, I think it was. But he was a great, you know.

HB: How did you, when you were a child, how did you celebrate holidays? Like Christmas and Thanksgiving? Was it a big thing, did you get lots of presents?

Mims: Oh yeah! Well presents were--we appreciated them in them days!

HB: What kind of presents?

Mims: Well, you know, like you'd mostly get toys, and sleds and clothing. You know, stuff like that in them days.

HB: Did you, did your family then just have like a big dinner?

Mims: Oh yeah. We'd have dinner.

HB: What else did you do when you were a boy? Like summertime activities?

Mims: Oh, in summertime we used to...a fellow had an orchard way out here on, it's on Memorial Drive now. We used to go out there, we used to pick cherries and stuff like that, and strawberries, you know, make money that way.

HB: Did you get to keep some of it then, that you picked?

Mims: Oh yeah, he'd give you...you mean to take home? Oh yeah, he'd usually give you something to take home.

HB: What did Cedar Rapids look like in the 1920's? I mean, compared to today, what did it look like then? Did it have paved streets?

Mims: Oh yes. Mostly, but where we lived, it wasn't paved in them days.

HB: Was it mud streets or dirt?

Mims: Well, it was dirt streets, yeah.

HB: What happened when it rained?

Mims: Oh, it was pretty bad. See, I lived up on Oak Hill, and then they had a big sand hill going on up 13th Avenue. Well that's where those motorcycle riders used to come out and make a run for it and see who could get up through that--you know, it was kind of heavy sand--we used to get a kick out of it watching them when we were kids. They'd be riding those motorcycles.

HB: Oh, they had motorcycles then when you were young?

Mims: Oh yeah. Motorcycle club, yeah. Oh sure! Mostly the Harley-Davidson, and then they had the Indian. That was mostly what they rode in them days.

HB: Did you ever ride a motorcycle?

Mims: No! (laughter)

HB: Did your family have like a horse or anything? Or what did you use to get around?

Mims: No. We used to raise..well, most everybody in them days had chickens, and pigeons. I had pigeons. A fellow gave me some pigeons. Mr...uh, what the heck is his name? Svoboda! gave me my first pair of pigeons when I was about, oh I was probably about 12 years old. And I started with one pair and I wound up with about 50 pair, I guess! (laughter)

HB: What did you do with them?

Mims: Well, you know, didn't do too..just kept them around til my mother...til I got older and then she had me...I got rid of them.

HB: So, did your family have a car or anything?

Mims: No, we never had a car in them days. No.

HB: Did your house have indoor plumbing or did you...

Mims: It had outside plumbing.

HB: You had outside plumbing?

Mims: Yeah, in them days.

HB: You had to carry your own water in?

Mims: Oh yeah. I had to carry the water and everything.

HB: What did you... I mean, what were the things that had to be done with water that you had to carry it in all the time?

Mims: Well, what had to be done with it--you had to cover it, you know what I mean, at nights and stuff like that.

HB: Did you have like a pump out in the back yard?

Mims: No, no! We rented from a fellow by the name of Newcomb. He had a lot of

houses up where we lived. We just rented up there in them days, and we'd have to go about, oh, a quarter of a block from where we lived and carry... had a well, a hydrant right there and when the people used to all congregate there, they'd get water, and then you'd have to carry it back home.

HB: In the winter, did it ever freeze up or anything? Did you have problems with it, do you remember?

Mims: Not too much that I can remember.

HB: Was it your job to go get the water?

Mims: Oh yeah. You know how kids...me and my brother, he's older than I am. He lives in Detroit. Yeah, he's about three years older. But we used to have to bring the water. Naturally.

HB: So, I suppose you had to kind of conserve so you didn't have to make so many trips. I mean, you used the same water for different things a lot of the time?

Mims: Yeah. Then you had the tub, you know, one of them big wash tubs where you had to take a bath.

HB: That must have been something. Did everybody take a bath on the same day?

Mims: Oh, it varied. No, you couldn't bathe them all in the same day, you had to carry the water in and dump it in a big container and then go back and

fill that up and heat it up and then dump her in the tub. And then start.

HB: Did you have any electricity?

Mims: Oh yes. We had electricity.

HB: Did you have wood heating for cooking and stuff like that?

Mims: Yeah, wood. Wood and coal. She used both.

HB: Did you have an icebox?

Mims: Oh yeah.

HB: Do you remember the iceman coming?

Mims: Oh yes. Absolutely.

HB: Did you...how did it happen? I mean, what did he do, how did he unload his ice?

Mims: Well, he'd...you'd tell him what you wanted...say 50 pounds, or 100 pounds, 50 pounds usually, I guess most of the boxes in them days were 25 and 50. Well, he'd cut off a chunk and then bring it in there and put it in the refrigerator.

HB: What kind of businesses were there downtown in the 1920's?

Mims: Well, you had all...just like you got them down there...and, of course, they're all out now, a lot of them. You know, Armstrongs, Killians, and the jewelry stores. About the same thing, only nowadays, a lot of them aren't in business any more.

HB: What about the railroad, was it...

Mims: Yeah, they had the railroad Union Depot, they called it. They had the Northwestern, oh, at that time they must have had 22 trains of Northwestern that came through Cedar Rapids in 24 hours. And then they had another train, the Rock Island, that went from Minneapolis to St. Louis. That came through Cedar Rapids. And then they had another line used to go from Cedar Rapids to Rock Island, and then went on up north. I can't remember where it did go then.

HB: Did you ever ride on the train?

Mims: Oh yes. Oh sure!

HB: Where did you go when you rode on the train?

Mims: Well, the first ride I can remember, I was about 14, and we went to...we'd been up north, and we went back to Mississippi to visit my mother's sister. We went from here to...my dad was working of the railroad at that time, Rock Island, and they got passes for us.

HB: What did your dad do on the railroad?

Mims: Oh, he was...I can't remember exactly what he did...I think he used to work in the, they used to call it the center pit, where the guy that knocked, cleaned out the fire from the engines, and then they'd have to take by hand--they done it by hand in them days--shovel it all into a car, you see. When the car got full, they just moved it and put in another one.

HB: What was it like to ride on the trains? I mean, were they nice accommodations?

Mims: Oh pretty good. Oh yeah, not too bad, in the early days.

HB: Do you remember the trolleys?

Mims: Streetcars? Oh yes.

HB: Did you ride in them a lot?

Mims: Oh yes. A lot of streetcars in them days.

HB: Where did they all go in Cedar Rapids?

Mims: Well, they had the barns, I think it was down by Quaker Oats, but they used to...well, they got it about like the bus routes are here. They had different ones--Beaver, Ellis, I mean Ellis, and Beaver.

HB: Did you have to pay to ride?

Mims: Oh sure!

HB: How much did you have to pay to ride?

Mims: You mean when we were kids? I don't know. Maybe about a nickel, I suppose.

HB: Did you walk pretty much then...

Mims: Oh, we walked everywhere. I lived way up on Oak Hill, and when I was down at Washington High School, we had to walk way down there. Down by the Green Square Park now, that's where Washington High School is, down where that American Legion, Hanford Post is. Now that's where old Washington High School used to be.

HB: Do you remember when the...okay, you would have graduated from high school in what...1930. Okay, that would have been just when the depression was hitting. How did that affect you? Did you find a job, or...

Mims: Yeah, my dad, he had a job, but then he got...you know what I mean, in them days, he worked, and then he got, I don't know whether he got laid off-- things got kind of bad. But he used to work on that, they used to call it relief or something like that. You'd work for the state or city or something. You know what I mean, he'd work so many days a week. WPA, that's what they called it. He worked on that a while.

HB: Did you, when you graduated high school, did you find a job?

Mims: Oh yeah. When I got out of high school I used to work...well, when I was 16 years old, I used to go down to Wilsons and work in the hide cellar when we were kids through the summer.

HB: What did you do at Wilsons?

Mims: Well, we was in where they had hides, they called them. You know, where they make...and we used to, me and another lad, we used to work up on the, they'd call it on the pack. We'd get up on top of the--the hides would probably be five foot tall sometimes, they had them stacked in there, and then salted and everything. We'd get up there and bring them over to where they were...shake them out, and they'd grade them and stuff like that.

HB: What other jobs did you have while you were a teenager?

Mims: When I was a teenager...

HB: Summer jobs...

Mims: Oh yeah. I had different summer jobs and stuff like that.

HB: Where at?

Mims: Oh, different places, you know, I used to work...at one time, I worked up at Kenwood, they called it then. Kenwood one summer. I worked with a fellow that had a dairy up there. And I used to help him. I used to, he'd stop at the house, and I'd run over and put the milk in the milkbox, and pick up the bottles, and come back. I worked for him all that one

summer when I was about 15, I think it was.

HB: I remember you mentioning in our first interview that you said you worked for a paving company...

Mims: Oh yeah, I worked for Ford Paving Company when I was in...

HB: What kind of a job did you do?

Mims: Oh, I used to carry brick when they paved. I remember when they paved this street where I'm on now (7th Street) with brick. When I was in school--in high school--I got...and my dad worked there too, and he got me a job and I used to carry brick to the brick setters, they called them in them days.

HB: Were the people that worked for that--were they blacks and whites?

Mims: Oh yeah. Few blacks--not too many--but they were mixed.

HB: Were you treated fairly equal?

Mims: Oh yes! Oh yeah, as long as you do your work, I guess, like they are today.

HB: Nobody was discriminating against you?

Mims: Well no, not that I know, I didn't pay any attention in them days. But

I mean, of course, my dad was a pretty hefty guy. He was no trouble-maker, but I mean, in other words it must've been all right cause he never did say anything.

HB: Do you remember--you were pretty young--but when women's suffrage came through, did it affect your mother in any way? Did she go to vote? You know, when women got the right to vote in the 1920's.

Mims: Oh yeah, my mother voted. Yes.

HB: Was she a pretty active woman? Were black women pretty active in politics or anything like that?

Mims: Oh yeah, some of them were. Yes.

HB: What about your own family--I mean like when presidential or any type of elections came around--did you go to vote?

Mims: Oh yeah, we always voted. Yes. You see, down in Mississippi you couldn't vote, but when we came up here you could.

HB: What about like when the depression did hit and so forth, did Cedar Rapids get hit pretty hard, do you think?

Mims: Oh yeah.

HB: Do you remember anything like soup lines or when the banks closed, did

people get really panicky?

Mims: Oh, naturally they did, but I can't remember too much about any soup lines in them days. I suppose they had them, though, but I mean, like when the banks went broke, well then naturally everybody was upset.

HB: Did your family get hurt by that? Did they have...

Mims: Well, they didn't have too much in there. They had a little, not too much.

HB: So, what happened after you got out of high school and it was during the depression. What other types of jobs did you have or what did you do? Did you stay here in Cedar Rapids?

Mims: Oh yes. And I went to work at Wilson's. Well it was Sinclair when I first... but I've worked at Wilson and Company for a long time. Until I went in... and then I quit Wilson and went to the... I was a doorman at the Montrose Hotel for a year in '41 or '40, and then I quit that and went over to the Union Station. I was a Red Cap over there--you know, handled the luggage and stuff like that. And I had a shoe-shine stand and stuff like that.

HB: When you were a teenager did you date a lot?

Mims: Oh not too much. We used to have--you know, like some of the girls, they'd have little parties for you to come to, you know.

HB: Did you get married when you got out of high school or when did you get married?

Mims: I didn't get married until I was, let's see, 1961.

HB: Oh you didn't get married until... So you were a single man, a bachelor all that time.

Mims: Oh yeah.

HB: So, did you live with your family then, all that time?

Mims: Oh yeah.

HB: Were most of your family still at home, or did they all move off?

Mims: Oh, most of them were gone. My sisters were all married and gone. There was just me and my brother.

HB: Did you, like in the 1930's, with the depression as it was and stuff, what was there to do around Cedar Rapids? I mean, did they curtail a lot of things? Like entertainment and stuff like that, was it..?

Mims: Oh, I never noticed that too much. I didn't notice it too much.

HB: Did you, in the 1930's or so, with working and so forth, did you notice... were people, compared to the 20's when they were supposed to be so happy and stuff like that, was the attitude of the people a lot different during the depression? Do you remember?

Mims: Oh yeah, well you know how people are. They were always kind of hurting and like that. I guess none of them was violent or anything, but I mean, you know how they used to just talk about it, you know, "I wish I could get a job." Or this and that.

HB: Were your parents working all during the depression or were they..?

Mims: Well, my mother did. Like I said, she did day work. She worked all the time, and of course, like I said, my dad, he was on that WPA for quite awhile.

HB: Do you remember any other...like, did the city offer any programs for helping people?

Mims: Oh yeah. They had the welfare like they got now. A lot of people used to go over there and get that script--they'd call it in them days--so you could get groceries and stuff like that. And some of them, they'd pay their rent, you know, rent and groceries.

HB: During the depression, did you have any..let's see, were there any black people that were really down and out hard. I mean, didn't have anything to live on or so forth.

Mims: Well, the blacks were usually always hit the hardest like they are today. You know what I mean, when it comes to stuff like that; sometimes they'd give...you know, they wouldn't give the blacks, they'd give the whites. But they wouldn't...

give the blacks a lot of stuff--scripts and stuff like that. You know what I mean, it's the same then as it is now only it's a little different now, I mean pretty near everybody is working, but you're always--the black is always in the background, you know that.

HB: Do you remember places like, when you were a child too, that you couldn't go because you were black?

Mims: Oh, there were a lot of places around. You know, like hotels and fancy restaurants and you know, restaurants and stuff like that, they didn't want you in there for a long time. But there was one fellow, Tommy Thomas, run a restaurant there at Second Avenue and Fourth Street right where the Dragon is now. Well, he, even back in them days, he always, he never refused blacks, you know, he didn't care. He said, you know, they're just the same to me. You know, he'd take them in, but a lot of places, they didn't want..you couldn't go..you'd have problems, you know.

HB: What about like public transportation, like the trolleys or...

Mims: Oh no, that was all right.

HB: And the railroads were okay too?

Mims: Oh yeah.

HB: What about, can you tell me anything about natural disasters or other types of disasters that happened in Cedar Rapids, like when it flooded and stuff like that, when the Cedar River flooded?

Mims: Oh yeah. Well then, I remember when they had the big flood back in '29, they didn't have the dikes then, you know, water was downtown, in the streets downtown.

HB: What did people do?

Mims: Well they had to do the best they could. You know what I mean, as far as getting around like that, you know, until the water receded.

HB: When things started flooding, what did people do? Did they try to do anything to stop it?

Mims: Oh yeah, well they tried...you know, they'd sandbag and stuff like that, but in them days they didn't have the dikes like they got now, see. But when I went to work for the city, you know, the Parks Department, when they'd have flood warnings, I used to go out and work, help at nights. We used to sandbag and do different work to keep the water from overflowing into the streets and stuff like that.

HB: Do you remember anything like when...like the Douglas Starch Works explosion?

Mims: Yes. I can remember that. As a lad, we used to play a lot over at Tyler School playground there, and I remember we was playing ball, then all of a sudden come that big explosion. I don't know, I'd say it was right around supper. We was planning on going home to eat dinner, see, and we saw the big explosion, and debris going up in the air and everything like that,

and jeez, we got scared. We run for home, you know what I mean. But, I can remember that. Yeah, that was back about 1919, I think it was.

HB: Yeah, 1921, I think.

Mims: No, no...

HB: Oh yeah, that's right, 1919.

Mims: About 1919. Oh yeah, I can remember that.

HB: How about the...do you remember anything about the Public Library murder? That was in 1921.

Mims: I can remember them talking about it. Some fellow got shot. What in the heck was his name? Miller, not Miller, but I mean, I remember when they talked about that. Yes.

HB: Did people speculate or anything like that, or did they wonder, you know... was it a big thing in Cedar Rapids?

Mims: Oh naturally, something like that, you know. Oh sure, it was a big thing, but I think they caught the fellow, you know what I mean.

HB: Do you remember any famous characters, like the Cherry Sisters?

Mims: Yeah, I've seen them. Me and another friend of mine, Lawrence Harper,

we used to take his younger brother. All three of us used to go down to the old Majestic Theatre. That's where I saw them on the stage, down there.

HB: Where was the Majestic Theatre?

Mims: Down at A Avenue and Third Street NE.

HB: What kind of shows did they put on there?

Mims: Oh they had all stage shows, you know what I mean. They'd book different...

HB: What other kind of acts did they...I mean, what kind of entertainment did you see? Was it vaudeville or...?

Mims: Oh yeah. They'd be vaudeville. Most all of it would be vaudeville. They showed movies there too, you know.

HB: Do you remember seeing...what were the movies like? When you went in to see them, they were silent movies?

Mims: Yeah, most of them were silent in them days. In the early days.

HB: Do you remember watching any special ones...

Mims: Well, we used to always like the cowboys. We were great for cowboys, you know what I mean, when we was kids, you know. Then we used to go the...where we used to go for the cowboy pictures was that--they called it the Columbia

Theatre. That was on First Avenue between Third and Fourth Street. They called it the Columbia Theatre. That's where they used to have the double features, you know, and all cowboy stuff there at the Columbia.

HB: Do you remember any of the actors that were in them or anything?

Mims: Oh, I remember Hoot Gibson, Eddy Polo, and oh, Roy Rogers, he came later, I saw him later. But I mean in the early days Hoot Gibson, and jeez, I can't think of some of the older ones.

HB: How much did you have to pay, do you remember?

Mims: Ten cents. To get into the movie, yeah.

HB: And what about other things like carnivals, did you have any of those here?

Mims: Yeah, carnivals, we used to have Barnum and Bailey. They'd come every year.

HB: Do you remember where they set up?

Mims: Well, a lot of times they used to set up on the Southwest Side, over there around Linkbelt Speeder, in that area, they used to set up.

HB: Did the circus people have a bad reputation or anything like that, or were people in Cedar Rapids...

Mims: Well, I mean I guess they're always kind of leary of something like that,

but, I mean, when I was a lad, you didn't seem to pay much attention to that.

HB: Do you remember anything like about Greene's Opera House or anything...

Mims: I don't ever remember going to Greene's Opera House, but I remember they had it. Then they had...I went to, downtown, they had the Rialto Theatre and then they had the Palace Theatre, and then one they called it the Isis Theatre. I've gone into that to see movies--like you say, silent movies, in them days.

HB: What kind of amusement parks or anything did they have around here?

Mims: Oh, just like they got--you know, Bever, and mostly, in them days, where we used to walk from where we lived, up on Oak Hill out to Bever Park. You know, go out there and play out there and take a lunch and go out there, and a lot of times, when we were kids, we used to fix up--mother used to fix up lunches, and we'd go out into Van Vechten Park (where it is now) you know, go out there, and there was nothing much there, but we used to go out there and played out there and have our lunch and stuff like that.

HB: Going back to other famous characters, do you remember anything about Grant Wood?

Mims: Yeah, he was my art teacher at McKinley Junior High School. He was my seventh grade art teacher, then he was my ninth grade art teacher.

HB: Oh really? Did you remember anything else about him. Did you meet him in later years?

Mims: Oh afterwards, I've seen him. Oh yes.

HB: Did he remember you as being a student?

Mims: Oh yeah. Oh sure! He was very friendly with the Turner's. You know, John B. Turner's Mortuary. He was very good friends with them.

HB: Do you remember anything about Marvin Cone or anybody?

Mims: He was at Coe College, yeah. I've seen him, you know what I mean. Yes.

HB: Did you have anything ever to do with any of the colleges around here, like Coe or Mount Mercy or Cornell?

Mims: No.

HB: Did very many blacks ever go to college?

Mims: Not in them days.

HB: No? not in the 1920's.

Mims: No, not many. A lot of them used to go down to the University of Iowa in them days, the early days.

HB: Was it unusual for blacks to graduate from high school even then?

Mims: Oh no. Well, most all of them went to graduate, they did, you know, if they wanted to, they worked hard to do it, most of them. Yes.

HB: Did people drop out a lot?

Mims: Oh yeah. There were drop outs in them days.

HB: Do you remember things like other immigrants in Cedar Rapids like the Czech community?

Mims: Yeah, Czechs, yeah.

HB: How did they relate to the black community?

Mims: All right. Well that's where I lived, near the Czech neighborhoods, you know, and I never had any problems with them when I was young. I used to work for a lot of the Czech women in them days, you know, and they used to teach me to speak it a little. I got where I could speak it pretty good when I was a youngster, you know what I mean, because they couldn't speak English too much in them days.

HB: Do you remember anything about, like right after World War I there was the illness, the big influenza? Do you remember anybody close to your family or anything, even dying of it, or did it effect your family in any way?

Mims: Not that I know of, but I can remember when they used to talk about the influenza. They called it the influenza in them days instead of the flu, now it's flu. But I mean, influenza, yeah, I remember, some people got it.

HB: Do you remember anything about other illnesses, like in the 1920's and '30's?

Mims: Well, back in the '20's, I remember one time our family got quarantined--they call it--with the Small Pox--they call it.

HB: Did you have Small Pox?

Mims: Yeah.

HB: What was it like--was it pretty bad? Did they have anything to make you feel better?

Mims: Oh, well yeah. Of course, the doctor would come once in awhile. But it didn't last too long. But, you know, they'd quarantine you. I know my dad couldn't...he had to go eat and stay with some other people. He couldn't come in.

HB: So, was the rest of your family quarantined?

Mims: Yeah, but when we were kids. I think it was about three of us. The rest of the sisters were older and were married. But there was, I had one sister and then my brother. There was about three kids and my mother.

HB: Do you remember any things like TB or Polio?

Mims: Oh well, TB was very..you know what I mean, there was a lot of TB in them days.

HB: Do you remember anybody close to you ever have any...?

Mims: Well, my sister-in-law's dad, I think he died with TB.

HB: There wasn't too much people could do about it.

Mims: Not in them days. You used to send them down to Oakdale, you know. That's where they used to send them then, when they had TB, you know, down to Oakdale.

HB: Were babies delivered at home?

Mims: Yes. Most of them in them days. My mother was kind of a mid-wife for the neighborhood. You know, she went all over and done...helped bring babies into the world.

HB: So, your mother knew pretty much about illnesses so you didn't have to have the doctor called in, or did he come in, or how was it?

Mims: Oh, you know what I mean, yeah, the doctor would come in if you got a pretty bad illness, but in them days, most of those women, they used to... knew kind of remedies, I guess, to kind of help you along. Of course,

they'd always call the doctor when they needed them. Just like they are...
You know, they'd come to your house in them days, but not any more, you know.

HB: Did you ever have to go to the hospital?

Mims: Only once, I was in the hospital, when I had a tonsillectomy, you know,
when I was about...well, about 1930.

HB: Was it scary or was...

Mims: Well, I don't know! I mean, they'd give you the ether in them days, and
you'd go to sleep. But I know when I woke up, I couldn't swallow for a while.

HB: So, was it unusual for people to go to the hospitals then, or not?

Mims: Oh no. About like it is..oh no.

END OF SIDE ONE; BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO

HB: Okay, going back to when you were in high school, and you said you wanted
to go on about some of your sports and so forth...

Mims: Yeah, well, when I came from, graduated from McKinley in 1927, I went down
to Washington High School, and I was fortunate enough to become a regular
member of the Washington High School's 1927 State Championship football
team. Of course, in them days, I was pretty light (160 pounds), I played
a pull-in guard--they used to call them then--because I was pretty quick
and you had to run interference. But we had three players that was on
Jack North's first All-state football team. They were Carl Groth--he was

a quarterback, and Jerry Kriz was a fullback, and an end by the name of Lou Fitzpatrick, and the three of them was on the Jack North's All-state team, and Washington High School in 1927 was considered the best high school football team in the state, you know.

HB: Who was your big rival team?

Mims: Oh well, in them days it was Waterloo West, and we used to play Saint Ambrose from Davenport--they've been on the schedule--Saint Ambrose, then we played Burlington, and then we played Mason City High School, and Winterset High School, and West Waterloo, and Fort Dodge, and you know, different...Ottumwa...

HB: And so you were considered the best team out of all those?

Mims: Yes. The 1927 team was... Jack North, he was, of course, he was a sports editor for the Des Moines Register, and he used to, it was just left solely up to him in those days to pick the best team because he was a referee and he used to go around and watch the games where they had...you know, the big games where they had usually the best players ready for college. But he rated Cedar Rapids Washington's 1927 team as the best team in the state.

HB: Compared to football nowadays, what was it like playing back then, I mean, what kind of protection did you have?

Mims: Well, you had fair protection, but not like it is today. In them days, you didn't...you know what I mean, well, if you made the first team, you played

both ways, it wasn't offense and defense. You had to stay right in there and play, you know. But nowadays, they have offensive team and defensive team, but back in them days, you had to take a whooping, you had to play the whole game, you know what I mean, play both ways.

HB: Did you have padding and stuff...

Mims: Oh yeah, it was like...you know what I mean, but not as good as it is today, but I mean, it was good. Oh yes.

HB: Did the schools put in pretty much money for the sports programs or so forth or...?

Mims: Oh yeah. I imagine so.

HB: And did you get a big turn-out at the game?

Mims: Oh yeah, we used to play all of our home games, we played them at Coe College. Coe Field, in them days. They had a field.

HB: Okay, where was the field located?

Mims: Well, right off of B Avenue there, between First...I think it was between A and B Avenue, that's where the field was at then. Northeast, A and B Avenue, Northeast. Right by the Saint Lukes Hospital. That's where the field was in them days.

HB: Did you have to pay admission to get into the games?

Mims: Oh yeah, they had to pay to get in. Oh, you bet.

HB: How was it set up, like were there stands?

Mims: Oh yeah, they had bleachers, you know what I mean. Oh yes, sure.

HB: So it was a pretty big thing then?

Mims: Oh yeah, it was a big thing in them days.

HB: And do you remember any other...what other sports were you in?

Mims: Basketball, track.

HB: Okay, going back to in the 1920's and '30's and so forth, what were the newspapers and radios like and stuff?

Mims: Well, we had, back in those days, they had the Cedar Rapids Gazette paper then they had one they called The Republican. They were kind of rivals, you know, the Gazette, and The Republican, in those days. And then the radio...the first one that I ever had was one of those little crystal sets. A man made it for me, you know what I mean.

HB: How old were you when you had that?

Mims: Oh, probably about 12 or something right along in there.

HB: What kind of radio shows were there on? What did you listen to?

Mims: Oh, not...well, back in those early days, well, they had different things, you know, we used to listen to that Clicko Club, they called it--that was a Ginger Ale--they used to call it. You could get music from them. They had a band that used to play and advertise that club, and we used to listen to that, you know.

HB: And, what about telephones, did you ever have one in your house?

Mims: Oh yes.

HB: When did they..? Did you have it when you were a boy?

Mims: Yes.

HB: So they were common things...

Mims: When I was in high school. Back in those days, we got it.

HB: How much later was it before you got indoor plumbing in your house? Did you move, or...?

Mims: No, we stayed right there. We got it, I don't know how many years afterwards. In those days, a lot of people, it took a long time to get indoor plumbing. But, it all depends on what neighborhood you was in.

HB: Was yours a fairly poor neighborhood?

Mims: Oh well yeah, pretty near everybody worked, you know what I mean, but they, you know, a lot of them worked at Penick and Ford, Quaker Oats, and places like that. Wilson's and the packing house. Well, where I lived it was integrated, you know what I mean. There was a lot of white...you know.

HB: Were there community centers?

Mims: Yeah, right there, the Jane Boyd Community House. That's when I was a boy. Now this lady that they named it after--Miss Boyd, she was my first grade teacher. But I tell you what she used to do. The streetcar used to run right past Tyler School, right down 12th Avenue, and a lot of time if we had holes in our shoes--you know how kids--and stuff like that, she used to load the whole class up and take us downtown (I don't know, I guess she must've had some kind of pull, you know) but she'd get us all new shoes and stuff like that. Miss Boyd.

HB: Oh, I see. Is this center still there, or is the Jane Boyd...?

Mims: Oh yeah, it's a new center now, but that was the old...I mean, it was a little, small house sitting way up on the hill, when I was a boy, and when I was in --well, she was my first grade teacher--and then when we got to be about in fourth grade or fifth, she used to have..we used to have to go up, we'd go up to Jane Boyd after school and have cooking classes. She used to have cooking classes for us.

HB: So, was it boys and girls?

Mims: No, boys. All boys.

HB: So you learned how to cook, huh.

Mims: Oh yeah! (laughter) She'd teach us. She was a wonderful person.

HB: Any other things that she taught you, or that you remember doing there?

Mims: Well, she'd always have--I mean, like we'd go there--it seemed like she'd always have...like in the summer, it wasn't like it is now, she'd have a softball or something and bats around the community house; she'd let us kids take them out and play with them, and stuff like that.

HB: With your parents and so forth, were they strict with you?

Mims: Oh yes. They were strict, you bet. Mother was. Dad didn't have too much to say, but she did.

HB: Oh, your mother was the iron fist in the family.

Mims: You bet. She was iron...

HB: So did you get spankings and..?

Mims: Oh...yeah, sure until, I, you know what I mean, got up around 12, 13 or 14 years old, then she didn't do it. She used to talk to you, you know.

HB: Then it was just...take away your privileges..?

Mims: Right, right.

HB: Do you think you were any worse off than any other children, as compared to white children, or anything like that? Or do you think you had it ..?

Mims: Well, I don't know, I don't think so. I mean, there pretty near was always work, you know you had plenty to eat. You know, but like we said, blacks are always a little...you know, in them days they kind of...you know what I mean, it was a little tougher for you, you know, but we never did, you know what I mean, I never heard them complain a whole lot. We always had plenty to eat and clean clothes and stuff like that, you know.

HB: How about going on to other local factories and businesses. Do you remember any businesses that no longer exist, you know, that were big ones, in the 1920's and '30's, that are out of business now, do you remember any?

Mims: Let's see, what was that one we used to...well, I mean, like Century Engineering, that was a big place, and, of course, they're out of business now. Century Engineering and then Welsh Overalls--they used to make overalls in Cedar Rapids--Welsh's Overalls, they used to make them here. And then they had like the Cedar Rapids Candy Kitchen, you know, they had a place where they used to make candy, you know, chocolates and stuff like that. I mean, a lot of them places are...they've gone out.

HB: Did those businesses go out of business when, like in the depression?

Mims: I think a lot of it happened during the...of course, the Century didn't, I mean, a lot of them places like Welsh Overalls and things, I think they probably went out maybe before, I can't remember, and the Candy Kitchen, they probably went out before the depression. Maybe, you know, I'm not sure. But Century Engineers hung on a long time, but they was quite a place--where they made furnaces and stuff like that, you know.

HB: Do you remember the Farmer's Market? What it was like?

Mims: Oh yes. Well, it used to be up on, oh, I'd say that was probably First Street and B Avenue, A or B Avenue Northeast, that's where the Farmer's Market was in them days.

HB: And what did people do, did you go or did your family go to buy?

Mims: Oh yeah, we used to go over there. My brother-in-law had a car, and a lot of times we'd go over there and buy stuff, you know, from the garden. But, we usually had a garden, you know, my mother--we always had a garden, but a lot of things sometimes, it was late coming and we'd go to the market and buy stuff. But we always have a garden, and I like to have a garden now and I raise Dahlias, you know, flowers; but I like a garden.

HB: So people then usually had enough land where they could have a garden and so forth to raise things, around your house and..?

Mims: Oh yeah, in the early days, yeah.

HB: Going on later into the 1940's when you started working for the Parks Department and so forth...

Mims: Yeah, after World War II I did.

HB: Were jobs fairly easy to come by then?

Mims: Then they were, yeah, say about '46; '45, '46 you could pretty near, you could get a job pretty easy, them days.

HB: That was about when the NAACP was starting up...

Mims: What's that? The NAACP! Oh, it started long before that in the bigger cities, around Detroit, Chicago.

HB: When did it come to Cedar Rapids?

Mims: Oh, it come to Cedar Rapids, I suppose, in the '30's, you know, the late '30's. You know what I mean, like that.

HB: Were you ever involved in it?

Mims: Oh yeah, I used to be a member, yeah.

HB: And, did they do anything to make sure Cedar Rapids...

Mims: Well, they tried in them days, a lot of things, you know, but they just

took their own good time before they would do anything. They used to fight for, you know like, restaurants, to eat in the restaurants and sleep in the hotels and stuff like that in them days, but it just didn't do too much good 'til it just finally took time before they were able to do it.

HB: Do you want to talk about anything like the war and so forth...how were..?

Mims: Oh yeah, you mean when I was in the service?

HB: Yeah, were you segregated or any type...?

Mims: Oh yeah, it was segregated in them days, in World War II, yeah.

HB: What did you do in the war?

Mims: Well, I was in the Engineers--built bridges and railroad tracks, you know, all kinds...

HB: Where did you build your bridges...?

Mims: Well, that was all overseas, you know, in Europe. In World War II, you know, I was with the engineering outfit, and we, you know what I mean, we used to... let's see, what was it...375th Engineers, when I went overseas with them. Of course, like when we got overseas, then when they crossed the Channel which started the push on the Germans for Germany, well, we came shortly afterwards and we used to build...if they'd bomb a bridge or something we'd have to put up bridges and bomb railroad tracks, we had to ... fix them and get them ready and stuff like that.

HB: Okay, so in the service, when you were segregated like that, was it by companies? I mean did you work together at all?

Mims: No not too much. Once in a while you'd meet them, you know what I mean. But, like a lot of places overseas...when we got overseas there, sometimes we'd go--a lot of times we'd go to take a shower, we'd have to wait until the whites got through a lot of times, before they'd let you shower, you know, and stuff like that. Of course, that was done by the Americans, you know what I mean. Like, when we was in France or England, they didn't...you know what I mean, France, mostly.

HB: They didn't care if...

Mims: Oh no, they didn't...the foreigners didn't care.

HB: I guess more or less, we're pretty much finished here, unless you can think of something...

Mims: But that's...I mean we was overseas, now that's where we first, when we was in Germany, that's when we saw the first interstates like we got now. That's where they got the idea, from the Germans, from Germany, you know. So we used to see the cars, you know what I mean.

HB: When you came back and started working in the Parks Department and so forth, were there places in the parks that were supposedly only for black people?

Mims: Oh no. I've never...oh, no.

HB: Even before that, do you remember anything..?

Mims: No. Of course, I guess Ellis Beach, you know they used to call it Ellis Beach, you know they used to didn't want either the beach or the new swimming pool, one or the other, they didn't...blacks used to have trouble, they didn't want them to swim, you know, use the facilities and finally they got it knocked down someway, you know. But before, that was right after World War II, I think, about '45 or '46 before they would accept them, you know, in the wading...in the city pools, you know, they didn't want them to swim.

HB: Compared to the rest of the country, do you think Cedar Rapids was a pretty fair city, I mean, as far as treating blacks and so forth?

Mims: I like it. Oh yeah. I think it's the best city in the state as far as, you know, for blacks. Of course, I might be partial, but I really think it is.

HB: Do you want to give any general ideas--do you think it's better to live in Iowa and Cedar Rapids than the rest of the country, or do you...do you think it's...

Mims: Well, naturally I would think so because I've been here so long, you know. But I've never had any, you know what I mean, a whole lot of problems, but I think you can't hardly beat Cedar Rapids. You know, blacks don't do too bad here.

HB: Talking about the times and stuff, do you think it was easier growing up in

the 1920's and 30's that it is for children that have to grow up today?

Mims: No. It was tougher back in them days. It's a lot different now.

HB: As far as work and so forth, but as far as things to worry about...

Mims: Yeah, well I tell them all that Jackie Robinson, he took a lot of abuse, you know, but he made it possible for blacks in all fields. Jackie Robinson did, you know the baseball player--he played with the Brooklyn Dodgers--he made it possible for them to...you know, in all fields. That's what I always said, and it's the truth.

HB: Well, I can't think of any more questions. Do you have anything you'd like to say...?

Mims: No...I guess that's about it (laughter).

HB: Anything that comes to mind about the 20's and 30's that sticks out and I didn't cover?

Mims: Oh, you done a pretty good job, I think.

HB: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW

