

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

Nancy Yasecko: Brevard County Historical Commission, Oral History, Oral Video Project. Interview with Mildred Lawrence, Melbourne, Florida. January 29, 1994.

Interviewer: Nancy Yasecko. Cameraman: Robert Gilbert. Camera Sony DXC M7, Recorder Sony BVW-35. Copyright: Brevard County Historical Commission, 1994.

Robert Gilbert: Camera's rolling.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay. Why don't you tell us who you are, and where you were born, and when you came to this area?

MildredLawrence: My name is Mildred Lawrence and I was born in Dothan, Alabama. I grew up in
[00:01:00] Bainbridge, Georgia, and came to Florida in 1945 after World War II.

Nancy Yasecko: What brought you to this area?

MildredLawrence: I married a veteran who lived in Melbourne. And of course, I was teaching school in Decatur County in Bainbridge. And he decided since I was alone at home, he wanted me to come here to live with his parents. So I came down in August to work in the vocational high school at that time to teach Biology, Chemistry, and General Science.

Nancy Yasecko: What do you think your first impressions were when you first came here?

MildredLawrence: Well, coming from a small town in Georgia, and then arriving in Melbourne, there
[00:02:00] wasn't too much difference except I've always been impressed with people wearing bathing suits in December. That really was a shocker. I had a heavy winter coat once when I came here.

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah. The town was about the same size as you'd been used to, I guess?

MildredLawrence: Yeah.

Nancy Yasecko: What about the school? You were a teacher up there before you came here?

MildredLawrence: Yes, but I taught in the rural. I taught in a vocational high school out in a small town, Brinson, Georgia. And of course, the school was an excellent school. It was one of these Rosenwald Schools. But when I came here, there was this 2-story frame building where they taught from 1st grade through the 12th grade.

[00:03:00]

Nancy Yasecko: What was it like when you first came here? This school was all black?

MildredLawrence: All black.

Nancy Yasecko: All the teachers were?

MildredLawrence: Yes. At that time, it's interesting, there were just 13 teachers in this all black school from grades 1 through 12, and a principal.

Nancy Yasecko: And you've kept pretty busy.

MildredLawrence: Oh yes. There were many activities. The community activities revolved around the school, meetings where people would use the school for their meeting rooms. There were the big bands traveling from up north where they would have dances. There was a gymnasium, off from the school, where the children played basketball all day long when they weren't in school, and after school. That was the recreation. The entire community would go to the basketball games. And it was the same, interesting to me, that during the junior and senior prom time, they would invite the entire town would go to the junior and senior prom because they weren't able to raise the money themselves. So therefore the town helped them to pay for the band. So when time for the prom, everybody went to the prom. That was a little different to me. But other than that, it was nice. The churches were the focal point for their other activities.

[00:04:00]

Nancy Yasecko: You say churches, which churches were here at that time?

MildredLawrence: Allen Chapel, Macedonia, Scott Chapel, and the Church of God and Christ up at the end. They had Mt. [Moriah 00:04:53] Church. So those were the churches.

Nancy Yasecko: Quite a few of them.

MildredLawrence: Yes.

[00:05:00]

Nancy Yasecko: I guess everybody went to church those days.

MildredLawrence: Yes, you went to church on Sunday and stayed all day.

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Which church did you go to?

MildredLawrence: When I first came, I lived really in the Eau Gallie area with my husband's people, his mother and father. His father was the minister at St. James Baptist Church in Eau Gallie. They were very kind. The people in Eau Gallie were warm and friendly, just like family. The spirit in the church was alive. You really felt great going there. But after coming in August, and we lived in Eau Gallie until December when he had completed his new house down on South Main Street, and then we transferred there, which made it easier for me to get to work. I could walk. But while I lived in Eau Gallie, I rode with a teacher each morning and went back.

[00:06:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me a little bit more about the school. What kind of books did you have and what did the classroom look like?

MildredLawrence: Well, they were just painted walls on a frame building. The school was really a

tremendous framed building. The interior, there were painted walls and the books, someone said they were second-handed books. I couldn't tell because they had been used when I arrived. I didn't get books from another place.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you have blackboards or?

MildredLawrence: Yes, you had blackboards, and crayons, and erasers. But you didn't have all the visual aides that they have now. That made a difference. Teachers had to do a great deal of poster-making.
[00:07:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative), to show how things were done?

MildredLawrence: That's right.

Nancy Yasecko: You would teach the same class all day long? You just had 1 grade and you taught all the subjects to that grade or?

MildredLawrence: No, I taught the sciences in high school. Maybe I would have a General Science class for the 7th grade, and a Biology class for the 9th grade, and a Chemistry class for the 12th grade. So that's the way it went.

Nancy Yasecko: Big classes or?

MildredLawrence: They were about 30 in each class.

Nancy Yasecko: That's a lot of students to keep up with.

MildredLawrence: My first homeroom class always impressed me. There were 3 females and the others were males. And through the years, it has been that group of people who have kept up with me. They are really like my children, they look out for me. They're adults but wherever you see them, they are very warm and friendly.
[00:08:00]

Nancy Yasecko: So it really was a community place?

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: It's where people all came together to do ... I love that story about the prom.

MildredLawrence: Oh, the prom. They all came together.

Nancy Yasecko: Did everyone come all dressed up and-

MildredLawrence: Yes, they were dressed. The interesting thing at that time, maybe it was the juniors and seniors wore the prom dresses and the people who were just there would wear church clothes, spectators. That made a difference.

Nancy Yasecko: You mentioned the band's came through, can you remember the names of any of

them?

MildredLawrence: Um, no. Not right off hand. But as they traveled south, they came.

[00:09:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Let's see. Okay, well we have a whole list of other questions, too, that some of them relate to times before you came here, but I bet you'll know.

MildredLawrence: Well, I'll tell you what I've heard.

Nancy Yasecko: To start with, tell me a little bit about your husband Henry-

MildredLawrence: Harry-

Nancy Yasecko: Harry Lawrence, I'm sorry, and when his people first came to this area?

MildredLawrence: His people came in the 1900s. His father and his father's brother came to work on the east coast railroad. And of course, they built a house down the street, 2408. And he said, in order to get that house they would go to the beach and get the lumber that would wash up on the shores. And they built that house out of this lumber. And after building the dwelling, they had a 32-room boarding house that they built. His daddy had boarders, people who worked in the mills, Hopkins Mill out of Deer Park.

[00:10:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Oh. That's interesting. When you say the boaters, you mean the people that worked at the Lumber Mill there?

MildredLawrence: Yes. They would come from-

Nancy Yasecko: Why did they call them boaters?

MildredLawrence: They would come from other places-

Robert Gilbert: Boarders.

Nancy Yasecko: Boarders, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative), or roomers, or whichever 1 you want.

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative).

MildredLawrence: These men would come there to work and most times the women would follow them. They would get a room with his father because there wasn't places to live.

Nancy Yasecko: 32 rooms. That's a lot.

MildredLawrence: They said it was a 32-room house.

Nancy Yasecko: Wow. Did you hear any stories about the building of the railroad? Did they talk, did you hear ...

[00:11:00]

MildredLawrence: Well, nothing expect his father and his father's brother came down to help build the railroad.

Nancy Yasecko: And I guess they worked on the stretch that was right through here, or did they continue on with them as they went south?

MildredLawrence: He didn't say how far they went.

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah. It sounds like once he settled here, he got his own business with the boarding house.

MildredLawrence: That's right, and a store, a grocery store.

Nancy Yasecko: What other kind of thing, sort of enterprises, did they have going on?

MildredLawrence: From my husband, they were always in the plant business. But his father made cement blocks and, at that time, houses were built upon cement blocks that were triangular in shape because of the water would settle around. In order to keep these houses dry and safe, they would use these cement blocks. He built cement blocks and he sold many cement blocks, many houses use those for pillars and foundation.

[00:12:00]

Nancy Yasecko: The pillars that the house, the frame of the house, might rest on.

MildredLawrence: Rest on.

Nancy Yasecko: I've seen what you're talking about. I guess there's probably still some of those out there.

MildredLawrence: Yes. That was the main enterprise; the boarding house, a grocery store, and the cement blocks.

Nancy Yasecko: That's plenty to keep a family busy.

MildredLawrence: Well, he said when his father was working, he would always assign him so many blocks to do in the afternoon where he'd pour this in a form. Of course, he'd get his baseball team, he liked to play baseball. They'd say, "Come play baseball with us." He'd say, "You come help me make the blocks." He'd get his gang and they would help him get the blocks poured, then he could go play baseball.

[00:13:00]

Nancy Yasecko: That's a pretty good trick.

MildredLawrence: Yes, so I told him that was his ... His life's work was landscaping and maintenance. I told him that's how he learned to employ men from getting this baseball team to come help him.

Nancy Yasecko: What were the roads like back then?

MildredLawrence: Sand, a car would get stuck in the sand, whatever vehicle you had. Very deep sand. You couldn't get out unless someone helped to get you out. It was rugged.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess if you went out in the car you're kind of taking your chances.

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: The US-1, I guess, was the first road to go in.

[00:14:00]

MildredLawrence: Yes, US-1 was. They say it stretches from Maine to Key West, but they had this road over near the river here, was that the old Dixie Highway?

Nancy Yasecko: I think that came first.

MildredLawrence: Yes, it came first, old Dixie Highway. And then, US-1.

Nancy Yasecko: When you came here, I guess US-1 was where it is now.

MildredLawrence: Yes, when I came in '45.

Nancy Yasecko: Kind of new, probably at that point. You're right here on the creek that leads to the Indian River, did you see a lot of boats coming up and down here?

MildredLawrence: Now, only boats we see are pleasure boats. But his sister tells that the post office was across the creek and sometimes they'd get on a boat and paddle across to get the mail.

[00:15:00]

Nancy Yasecko: The lumber company that was just west of us here, how would they get their lumber out? Were did they connect to the railway or were they ... Do you know? Maybe they came-

MildredLawrence: This saw mill that they said they got it through a railroad. They had their own little railroad. I don't know how far it came. I met a student who said the tracks were still out there in Deer Park. But there were great pillars when Macedonia built its church. These pillars were there on that site.

Nancy Yasecko: Oh, so where that church-

MildredLawrence: When Macedonia's Church, that was the seed of the mill. And he has told things about up on Line Street, that was the boundary and they were not allowed to cross the boundary because that was the quarters where people lived. Dancing, and drinking, and playing cards, and they didn't want their children down there. If they were caught, the police would carry them to jail.
[00:16:00]

Nancy Yasecko: So that was where you weren't supposed to go.

MildredLawrence: That's right. And he went to school in the Sanctified Church up there on the corner of Line Street and Lipscomb.

Nancy Yasecko: You just walked over to-

MildredLawrence: To school. He said that was where their school was. But the one where I taught is out where Brothers Park is today.

Nancy Yasecko: What early businesses do you recall around here? Where would you go to the grocery?

MildredLawrence: Grocery store when I came in, we went to the A&P store. That was in the location where the Chamber of Commerce is now. That was an A&P store. Everybody betted on the A&P store. The Turner's Department Store was always there. Where Attorney Vaughn has his office, over on [Melbourne 00:17:22] Avenue, that was a [(Mervyn's ?) 00:17:27] Clothing Store. That was the name of the proprietor. Those were 2 stores, the Gleason's had stores. The Gleason's stores were around about that Kempfer's Super Market. They had a 10 cent store that really isn't active, but I think it's a utensil company in that area.
[00:17:00]
[00:18:00]

Nancy Yasecko: I see a big ice company that was downtown. Did y'all still get ice when you were here, from that place?

MildredLawrence: When I came, yes. Their ice trucks would come around. Some people had began to get the refrigerators or freezers, but most people bought the ice, was delivered like newspapers. That's what happened there.

Nancy Yasecko: That was pretty important in the summer, I can imagine.

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes. It was hot.

Nancy Yasecko: People who were kids tell me they used to love it when the ice truck would come, they would get little pieces off of it.

MildredLawrence: Pieces of ice.

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah.

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nancy Yasecko: What about some of the early medical care. What were your options there?

MildredLawrence: [00:19:00] The early medical care, where I grew up, we had a lot of black doctors, so that's what I was accustomed to. Black dentist, black doctor. But when I came here, and my first experience really with a doctor was when I became expectant with my oldest daughter. And I didn't know where to go. Then one day in class I asked this question, "If you had to go to a doctor, which one would you select?" Everybody hollered out, "Dr. Pennington."

Nancy Yasecko: Oh, let me stop for a second. I can't catch the ...

MildredLawrence: Now-

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me that story again about when you decided you needed to find a doctor, how did you-

MildredLawrence: Let me back up.

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah, back up.

MildredLawrence: [00:20:00] My husband's family depended on Dr. Bean and Dr. Hicks. Those were the doctors in the area, but they were getting old. So I became expectant in about 1948. I asked the science class, "If you needed to go to a doctor, whom would you select?" They said, "Dr. Pennington."

Nancy Yasecko: And so?

MildredLawrence: [00:21:00] So that's whom I selected. I had had an experience once of going to Dr. Hicks office and the policy was that they'd keep you until the last, I don't care how soon you went, you just sat in a backroom until the last. But when I visited, Pennington was a doctor who had just came out of service. And he had all of you in the same room. They called you as you arrived. I was impressed with that service, because that was the type of service I was accustomed to with the black doctors. He didn't have you waiting. Of course, I kept him until time for me to almost to deliver. Then I found out that the hospital didn't take you but for enough time to deliver your baby, and you'd have to go back home, and have somebody to wait on you at home. Well, I didn't have anyone. My mother-in-law had died. My mother was in Alabama. She insisted that I go to a hospital because she had 3 sisters who had died in child birth. And she said, "She just must find a hospital."

[00:22:00] So my brother-in-law worked for the railroad and he knew about Flagler's Hospital in St. Augustine. And my father-in-law had a brother and his wife who were very kind. So I was taken up there to spend the last month. And that's where my child was born, in this hospital.

Nancy Yasecko: So they treated you right up there?

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes. It was wonderful.

Nancy Yasecko: The hospital that was so problematic here, which one was that?

MildredLawrence: That's on US-1. I could tell you just where their office is in this building now. There's a little motel as you ... Let me see. As you leave the first traffic light-

Nancy Yasecko: Going south-

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Or north?

MildredLawrence: Wait, let me get it straight. Not on New Haven. It's the traffic light at Hibiscus. You pass that and the car places. Just beyond the car places, there's a little motel. The building's in there. That was the hospital.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, did you go back up to St. Augustine to have your other children?

[00:23:00]

MildredLawrence: No. My mother lived in Tuskegee at that time, where there were a lot of medical people. She would always arrange for me to come live with her to have my second daughter and my third daughter. So they were born in the John Andrews Hospital at Tuskegee Institute.

Nancy Yasecko: Nice to be near your mom, too.

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes. And of course, with the medical attention, it may be the reason I don't have any problems today.

Nancy Yasecko: What about dentists?

MildredLawrence: Did I go to a dentist? They had ... Oh yes, A Dr. [Strange 00:23:42]. That was the dentist. I went to him. He gave me an appointment and I was received, so I didn't have ... But my husband tells this bypass that there was 1 dentist in town before Dr. Strange who said that he'd rather pull the teeth of a dog than a teeth of blacks. And they never liked him for that. But Dr. Strange came in town and by the time I arrived, I went to him for my teeth.

[00:24:00]

Nancy Yasecko: It brings up the point of what it was like here before integration where they were supposed to do that.

MildredLawrence: That's right.

Nancy Yasecko: Obviously, school that you taught at was all black.

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: What happened there when the time came and they were beginning to talk about integrating in the schools, and what was going to happen to your job, or your school? Were you still there?

MildredLawrence: [00:25:00] No, I wasn't there. I worked at that school a year and a half, and then I left for maternity reasons. I never went back because by the time my child was born, the war was over. And these veterans were coming to town. There were people, they were in a crunch for teachers, they said, for World War II babies. This teacher must have an elementary degree. And I didn't have the elementary degree. I had Biology, Chemistry, and a Home Economics. So you'd ask for a job but there was no employment. And of course, you needed to get this elementary education on your certificate. There were people, about 3 or 4 people, walking around with the degrees who needed employment. And of course, they got the job.

[00:26:00]

Nancy Yasecko: What was the experience of your children coming up? Where did they go to school?

MildredLawrence: My children went to school. My older daughters, that was for the soldier, they went to Tuskegee to live with my mother. She lived alone. One was 3 and the other one was 5. That's where they went to school. And of course, I describe Tuskegee is segregation in reverse. They lived well, they had this government jobs, they had very good education programs for children. For them to be exposed to that environment, really helped them a great deal.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, you had the opportunity to do that.

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: So the options here didn't look very good, did they?

MildredLawrence: No, no.

Nancy Yasecko: No.

[00:27:00]

MildredLawrence: And in their adult lives today, it made a difference. But our youngest daughter grew up here after segregation.

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative). So you elected to just avoid the problem as much as you could. You still had to live here and deal with the doctors, and all the rest.

MildredLawrence: That's right, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nancy Yasecko: Did you get involved in politics?

MildredLawrence: I followed my husband around. They had the South Melbourne Civic League. The South Melbourne Civic League, I think of as the movers and the shakers. There were a group of men whose names have never been recorded but I think it should be told that these men were powerful men and they met on Tuesday evenings, going from house to house. And whatever problems came up, they addressed those problems and they carried it to City Hall. And they got action. There were always this problem about streets and lighting. They formed their organization during a time when people had [outdoor 00:28:15] toilets. I'd seen in their records where they went to City Hall about this, the water at that time. When I came, the only thing people had were these sulfur wells, pumps. And of course, it was the condition of the water. Then as you said, the streets where you would get bogged down if you went out of your car, or whatever you run out in. So they brought about a great deal of changes. When the old school, which I taught in, burned down one December they were given the airbase out there near the airport. Now, what was it? Navy I think. It really is at Trailer Haven, but Trailer Haven had not been developed. So therefore, they taught school there until they built the Stone School out on University Boulevard. And that was grades 1 through 12.

Robert Gilbert: Okay. We're at the end of this tape.

Nancy Yasecko: At the end of the tape? Okay, we're going to take a break.

Okay, this is Brevard County Historical Commission, Oral History Video Project. Interview with Mildred Lawrence, Melbourne, Florida. January 29, 1994.

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[00:30:00]
MildredLawrence: Think of Tuskegee as a place where segregation is in reverse. The blacks are highly educated and they wanted the very best for their children. Therefore, my children were exposed to opportunities there that they didn't get here. There were tennis lessons, drama lessons, scouting, piano, and the typing was always a pet peeve of mine because black children weren't really entered into typing classes. If they did enter, it would be the last year of high school, which really wasn't enough to build up any basic skills. So as a result of that, we could pay for private typing lessons for my daughters there. And of course, when they finished high school, all of them were able to secure jobs in the market. The art teachers would get together and give an art workshop in the summer for children. I paid one 10 dollars for each one of them to go to this workshop. One of them served as the model while the other one did the drawing. The one who did the drawing has been teaching art in Washington, at a school in Washington, ever since she finished college. The one who modeled is married to an Ambassador in Botswana today. So I know it was the background that helped them to move on.

Nancy Yasecko: There just really was no opportunity like that here.

MildredLawrence: No, there wasn't. They needed to get ahead. But I get down to that. This other one came along in 1955 and she went through the Brevard school system where it had changed.

[00:32:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Well, they still didn't have as many opportunities.

MildredLawrence: No.

Nancy Yasecko: No child had those sorts of-

MildredLawrence: No. With the youngest one, she was born in 1955. We moved in this house in 1962. And I exposed her privately to piano, to dance. And I carried her up to Cocoa on Thursday nights to Patricia Steven's Modeling School where she studied the basic modeling, the advance modeling, and photography modeling. One experience she had while she was there, girls were traveling from Fort Pierce, these white girls. And one of these girls from Fort Pierce said to her in the powder room one evening, "You're too short to be a high fashion model." I told her, "I'm not sending you to school to become a high fashion model." And she said, "What are you sending me for?" I said, "In this day, I want you to be able to put your foot in the door and the person who sees you will employ you because of your skills." It has really been worth the money. She has had three top jobs. One job, the newspaper said 7 to 8 people applied for it and she was selected. The job she has today, she said her supervisor said, "Many people looked great on paper, but when they showed for the interview, you were the person." So you get what the public school give them, but you go out and spend extra money to see that they get all of these social graces and things that is needed.

[00:34:00]

Nancy Yasecko: I think this whole area has been kind of backward for everybody in terms of you known what's available in the way of culture.

MildredLawrence: That's right.

Nancy Yasecko: It's been very work-focused, whether it's people who work out of the Cape, or people who are working Citrus, or any of those things.

MildredLawrence: Well I advocate, I tell people whom I think can, "Send your children to these modeling classes for the polish, because you are associating with all people," and especially when you are looking for employment. That's your one ace.

[00:35:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Awfully good advice.

MildredLawrence: It really helped her in high school. She didn't try running for anything until she was 10th grade. Then in 11th grade, she ran for Vice President of the junior class and was selected. The senior class, at the last minute a person from our church

[00:36:00] nominated her and a boy from this community second the motion. The morning of the election, there had been others who had been groomed a year in advance, but the morning of the election, she became President of the student council at Melbourne High School when it had a lot of children for the whole year. Each time that she advances or tells me of some progress, I say, "That's that modeling I paid for." So we have enjoyed that.

Nancy Yasecko: It's more than money, it's the time to take kids here and take them there.

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Work on the piano, or whatever it is. Well, there's been a lot of changes here in other ways, too, like land values have changed quite a bit in this area. I don't know if you can tell us anything about where we are here.

[00:37:00] MildredLawrence: This location, my husband said when he was a boy, it belonged to a lady. She went north and where your car is parked, is it in the first driveway? That was the seat of the house. This was a tiny, 2-story house with winding steps. The place really wasn't developed. And he always wanted it. When her brother lived next door, it was the [Lipscomb 00:37:02] family. And her name was Alberta. And he said, the brother told him one evening, she wanted to sell it. He thought he had enough land but he decided he would buy it. So when she told him what she wanted, he made arrangements to send her the money. Of course, he purchased this and kept it for quite a few years until we married. Then, after we married, he decided he wanted to build a house here. That's it. That's the story.

Nancy Yasecko: Were there very many houses through here?

[00:38:00] MildredLawrence: No, just that tiny house. There wasn't even a road, just a sand. They'd call it, "I'm going to the detour." Cars didn't come through here. People would walk through here, a lot of sand. But after we moved here, they began developing the road. Now they're talking about building sidewalks. We've come a long way.

Nancy Yasecko: Hard to imagine.

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nancy Yasecko: Now there have been tourists coming down here ever since the turn of the century, probably. Were there hotels that you recall around here?

[00:39:00] MildredLawrence: Yes, the hotels that they came to was the 1900 building. That was the big hotel with bellhops. He'd tell how the bus used to stop there. As segregation was so bad, he said, they would throw the people's bags out in the street, almost. But then those are the kind of things that the South Melbourne Civic League would address. And they always got action, whatever changes, they just really reported it to the people in power and they got action. The Eau Gallie, I don't know what they're calling that but it was a tremendous hotel in Eau Gallie down by the river, pink with

roman arches. That was another.

Nancy Yasecko: That where the yacht club is now or?

MildredLawrence: I don't know where the yacht club is in Eau Gallie, really. It's right on the highway going to the beach, coming from downtown Eau Gallie.

Nancy Yasecko: On the right hand side or the left side?

MildredLawrence: If you would go-

Nancy Yasecko: Oh, I know where you're talking about. Yes.

MildredLawrence: It's really on the westbound lane, would be on the right side.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay, mm-hmm (affirmative).

MildredLawrence: That was a tourist center. Those 2 hotels really accommodated the tourists. About the tourists, what his brother worked at the hotel as a bellhop for many years. And the thing that shocked me when I came here, I decided to go to a store down town, they said, "Closed until September." I've never forgotten that. And I went, "Closed until September? What is going to do, close until September?" I found out that this was really a tourist area. It was an area where people, tourist, came. People went to work in the winter when the tourist came. All during the summer, they didn't have employment so they fished.

[00:40:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Well, that is funny.

MildredLawrence: Yeah, they fished to survive. And that was what happened.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you hear any stories from your husband's brothers' experiences as a bellhop of people coming down?

MildredLawrence: They said that they were very generous tippers. That's what I-

Nancy Yasecko: The northern?

[00:41:00]

MildredLawrence: The northern people were generous tippers. At the same time that they were working as bellhops, there was a theater, the only theater in town next door, [(Vanguard?) 00:41:10]. The blacks entered by the way of the back entrance and went up a stairs. They couldn't sit in the main section. My husband tells about the restroom facilities were poor. Finally I think he said, one night when a group of blacks just became disenchanted with this condition, they went up there with either peanuts, or popcorn, or something, and threw it down. One of the main men in town said, "Let those folks come down and sit in the lobby." They said, "Well, he's-" "Well I'm tired of them throwing pellets at me." That was his side. He said

[00:42:00]

from then on, the theater was integrated before.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, it was a successful approach.

MildredLawrence: Yeah, they always had an approach for doing this.

Nancy Yasecko: Let me just catch your microphone here. It has traveled a little bit. There. good. I remember that was also the case in Cocoa.

MildredLawrence: Oh, it was.

Nancy Yasecko: Theater there has a side door and steps that went up.

MildredLawrence: Went up. That's what happened to them.

Nancy Yasecko: Were any of the tourists that ... Well, we got another. Were any of the tourists that came down black? Were they all white folks?

MildredLawrence: At that time, the tourists who came down, they came down with their chauffeurs and their maids. These chauffeurs and maids either stayed in quarters at their homes and would come over here for a haircut, or recreation, and go back. The local people who really enjoyed seeing these chauffeurs and maids because they were well dressed, seemed to be affluent with money, and they had a certain standard there that the others didn't have.

[00:43:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Must have been kind of interesting. Did you get to know any of the people that came through? Would people, I guess they'd come year after year-

MildredLawrence: Yes. Some of them had permanent homes in Eau Gallie and on the beach. My husband worked for a penny ... What is it? Pennamen, Pennamen family longer than anybody else. They always had these maids. One maid lived in this area but she would travel with them back north. And when time for them to return for the winter, she came back with them. They had a chauffeur and a maid. They were supposed to be among the wealthy.

[00:44:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah, so we still have tourists, they're just not as ostentatious as they used to be.

MildredLawrence: That's right.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess as well as the tourists coming down, that's when most of the bands or any entertainment-

MildredLawrence: Came-

Nancy Yasecko: Would have come in the winter, as well.

MildredLawrence: That's right, yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Restaurants. Where there any restaurants that you liked in this area?

MildredLawrence: No, the only restaurants you could go to were the black cafes.

Nancy Yasecko: Which were where?

MildredLawrence: I don't really remember going to one. My husband said Eau Gallie had little cafes. [00:45:00] He often tells about his group. He had a group of friends that grew up with him. On Sunday after church, they would catch the train, and ride up to Eau Gallie, and go to the café, and buy dinner for 25 cents. This particular Sunday, they asked the lady what she was serving and she said she was serving chicken. When they served him the chicken, he looked and there was something like a foot. He said, "That's a gopher foot." She said, "Boy, shut up. I said it's chicken." So she had cooked gopher and rice, and that's what she was selling in her café. So that's what he told about it. I never remember going to cafes. Of course, when I came here, in order to camouflage me or keep me from knowing what was really happening out in society, [00:46:00] the husband I had at that time, "School teachers don't go here and they don't go there." I'm watching what he says while he went to everything, stayed out all times of night. Now that wasn't this husband. That was my first husband. And of course, but-

Nancy Yasecko: There were clubs to go to?

MildredLawrence: Spain's Bar down on the corner had just opened. It was the center of recreation. It was well kept. They would have bands and party nights. That was the center where most people went.

Nancy Yasecko: Dancing?

MildredLawrence: Dancing, eating. They had a very clean kitchen. So I would hear merchants who service them would talk about how clean the kitchen was. So they had rooms upstairs. They had hotel rooms upstairs, very nice rooms on the front of the building. Anybody could live there. Then there were transit rooms on the back that were cheap. So people would just go and stay. [00:47:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Have such a good time, they didn't leave.

MildredLawrence: No. They didn't leave and, of course, my father-in-law was a minister. My husband had been in World War II where he had been accustomed of going out, having a ball, so he just stayed around [Glennis 00:47:28] rather than staying home.

Nancy Yasecko: I bet that didn't go over too big with his dad.

MildredLawrence: No, it didn't, but his dad was a very kind person. I can remember hearing him say, "Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." My husband would say, "If anybody want to make me reap what I've sowed, they just need to move right

[00:48:00] now." See, that was me. I have lived to know what he meant.

Nancy Yasecko: Were there any hurricanes that came through since you've been here? Anything that's come pretty close?

MildredLawrence: Um, the only hurricane that I can remember here was David. David blew down a tree that size right there where you see those papaya trees. And it came across on the house top. And we were standing and just saw this tremendous tree. But my husband, he always knew the right people to contact. He knew people to contact. So he went to the telephone and called this man up. He and his wife came that evening. And he sawed the tree up. She stood with a cable down near the waterfront, and he was on top of the house and he got that tree all cut up for us, got it off the house. That was the only problem we have had since we've been here.

[00:49:00]

Nancy Yasecko: This area's been pretty lucky.

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes. We really have.

Nancy Yasecko: All in all. See you were actually in this area before World War II was over, then.

MildredLawrence: Yes because ... That's right.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember any of the rationing, and the things like that, that were going on in this area?

MildredLawrence: Um, my husband said ... Oh I remember having a ration book myself but it never posed a problem for me because I was alone. My husband said there were 10 people living in his household at that time. All of them had ration books. So they got along fine because they decided what they needed and you would, he'd say, "Sugar was no problem. We were a house of 10 people." They would decide what was needed, "This time we're going to buy sugar. The next time we're going to buy something else." That's the way that they did it. He said, they had ration books with the 10, maybe to help somebody else who didn't have enough. They always had their garden and they grew their vegetables and things. So he got along just fine.

[00:50:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Hmm.

MildredLawrence: He tells about a truck. He was in the landscaping business and, of course, the cars were rationed too.

Nancy Yasecko: The fuel?

MildredLawrence: Yeah, you'd get those according to your name on the list. His really broke down. That was all he had to transport his plants. He would go down to Palm Beach to buy plants, like Crotons. So one dealer looked out for him because, and used it as an agricultural thing because he did grow vegetables. He said he was able to get this

[00:51:00]

pretty new truck and he went down, somewhere down near Palm Beach, and he stopped at a nursery and picked up everything he needed. This operator said, "Oh, that's a beautiful new truck. You must work for a mighty fine white man to let you have that truck to come out. Now you be sure. Who you work for?" He said, "I work for Mr. Harry Lawrence." That was him. "Well, you make sure that you take good care of that truck." That's just an example of the times.

Nancy Yasecko: It sounds like Harry had a pretty good plan for everything he did.

[00:52:00]

MildredLawrence: Yes, he did. He planned his life. Whatever it was, you didn't know about it until he had thought it through. Then, there was action. He just moved on into whatever the plans were.

Nancy Yasecko: He had been in this area for a long time so he-

MildredLawrence: He was born here in 1910, up the street. Someone asked him about integration. He said, "Don't ask me. I've been integrated all my life." He said, "I've been to the funerals, I've been the parties, I've been to the weddings, I've been to the churches."

Nancy Yasecko: What was it ... Did he tell any stories about when he was growing up, going fishing, and that kind of stuff? I guess the fish used to really bite out in the river, more than they do now.

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes. They caught fish quite a bit. Harry's life was plants. He tells about his people taught him to grow plants. There was a woman who lived over here about where Attorney Vaughn, those across the creeks, the Vaughns and Lawrences, and what have you. He said she grew roses and she employed him to help her set out her roses. She taught him a lot about the roses. Then, he began to do landscaping, taking care of yards, when there wasn't a good bridge, just a board bridge across the river over there. He'd carry a sling blade because nobody had a lawn with grass. He'd take the sling blade and get 2 dollars for slinging down the grass. He moved on from that to selling and growing crotons.

Nancy Yasecko: A lot of crotons went in in the '40s and the '50s.

MildredLawrence: That's right.

Nancy Yasecko: He probably put most of them in, didn't he?

[00:54:00]

MildredLawrence: I know there are a lot of trees in this area that he planted. So then he got into the maintenance. He employed several men to maintain places. Of course, he ran his business by, he said he selected the people that he worked for. People who were really able to pay his price so he'd be able to pay the men. He didn't ever had any trouble because he knew where he was going each day in the week year round. The

same people. If they went north, they paid him before they left. And so he didn't ever have a problem there.

Nancy Yasecko: That's a good plan.

[00:55:00]

MildredLawrence: This was Harry's town. He felt as though he had a right to know what was going on. He went to church on Sunday, up there, the Allen Chapel. And he went to Civic City Council the nights they were having council meetings. And if there were any problems, they came to his attention that he wanted them to address, he'd bring it up.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's cut for a second. I want to get you-

MildredLawrence: I named these men in the Civic League that helped him. Let me get my pad.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay, let me un-clip you.

MildredLawrence: Their names-

Nancy Yasecko: 5, 4, 3, 2. You were going to tell us about some-

MildredLawrence: Most of the history, which has been recorded, has been about Harry and his family, his mother. I have been very impressed with the South Melbourne Civic League and the men who really helped to work there. They were Norman Coats, Reverend H.J. Mackmiller, JR Allen, Laucy Clark, Harry Lawrence, Horace Tucker, Charles Jerry, A.Z. Horn, Frank Jackson, Jim Range, S.T. Piper, W.C. Stafford, A. Holmann, Jessie Price, M. Gainey, John Brothers, Arthur Edwards, Thomas Walls, H.C.H Mclain, John Lewis, Harry Jenkins, Al Zopain, and Isaac Johnson. This was a cohesive group of men who were members of the Civic League. They made decisions about changes should come about in this area. And they would send representatives to the City Council to ask for them to be changed.

[00:56:00]

[00:57:00]

Nancy Yasecko: And they were successful?

MildredLawrence: They were very successful. When the old school burned, someone had the idea to make it a housing project. And four of these men went to Titusville to see the superintendent to ask that this site be reserved as a recreational park for blacks, because they didn't have a park at that time. Since that time, there's this park on Grant Street. The housing was poor. They got with someone to do the park out in Gramling Park. They must have been quite influential there because many of the streets are named after members of this organization. Then the government housing project came. And in that area, they built a recreation. The government built this recreation building. Of course, they named that the Lipscomb Street Park. We never knew why it was named Lipscomb Street Park because it's on Monroe. So Those are 3 major sites that they were influential in helping to bring about changes. Anything from, I read the book where they complained about pigs running in the

[00:58:00]

streets. Too many dogs in the streets, chickens. Today you don't have any of that around. That, they would go to City Hall.

[00:59:00]

Nancy Yasecko: What made them so strong? Was it because they had a voting group that would support their-

MildredLawrence: Yes. There was a cohesive group. Whatever the Civic League said, the people in the town went along with whatever their decisions were. Of course, they stayed together. The Civic League calls it, that group, they were very strong. I call them the "Movers and the Shakers." They moved to bring about changes, and changes were granted.

Nancy Yasecko: What about the quality of-

Robert Gilbert: Nancy, I'm afraid I mis-

Nancy Yasecko: Mis-cued?

Robert Gilbert: Cued.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay, this is the Brevard County Historical Commission, Oral History Video Project. Interview with Mildred Lawrence, Melbourne, Florida. January 29, 1994.

[01:00:00] Interviewer: Nancy Yasecko. Cameraman: Robert Gilbert. Equipment: Camera Sony DXC M7, Recorder Sony BVW-35. Copyright: Brevard County Historical Commission, 1994.

MildredLawrence: Did you get rid of those names?

Nancy Yasecko: We got all those names, yeah.

MildredLawrence: Okay, now they would discuss the politicians. Of course, the politicians would come and speak to the League. And if they decided they weren't going to vote for this particular one because he wasn't for the best of their interest, they just let everybody in town know, "We aren't voting for him." And at that time, people followed what they said. Today people do what they want to do.

Nancy Yasecko: That's what made them powerful in terms of having people listen to them.

[01:01:00]

MildredLawrence: Yes. They all vote the way the Civic League say go. And they know the people, they know the issues. That's just the way they did.

Nancy Yasecko: Well now were there any particular politicians that were generally in favor of the people that they liked, they thought were doing a good job by them? Was it all just, some were better than others?

MildredLawrence: Yes, I can't call them. Oh, I know Grady White. They went for him and he paved the street up there, Line Street and Round Stone. They wanted streets through, and that's what they got there. Today, they all like Mr. Mullin's. And they go for him. But the Civic League, as such today, doesn't have the power, according to my thinking, the powerful organization in town. Today it's in the NAACP. When, at the time when the Civic League had the power, they were almost nonexistent. You knew about it in Cocoa and there was a representative here who would collect dues. But it wasn't as influential as the Civic League.

[01:02:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Maybe it wasn't as in touch with your community.

MildredLawrence: That's right. But today, they are very strong. Now, I understand they still have a Civic League and still have a President, but I don't hear anything about it.

Nancy Yasecko: Did any of the men from the Civic League try to run for office themselves?

MildredLawrence: They had one man who became City Councilman, Ted Nichols. Ted Nichols was a business teacher who worked out at Stone School. He had traveled in Europe with the Peace Corps. And he came here and began teaching business, typing, things like that. Ted worked with the Council of Human Relations. They had a great deal to do with the ideas in this community. They met during the '60s, during the unrest. But Ted was a member of the City Council, I don't know whether it was 1 or 2 years. Then when his term was over-

[01:03:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Got a plane in the way. Maybe we should just stop for a second-

Robert Gilbert: Go.

Nancy Yasecko: You mentioned a little bit about the time of unrest in the '60s. Were there demonstrations here?

[01:04:00]

MildredLawrence: Well, I think we were fortunate. We didn't have the chaos the other towns had. Reverend Jesse Buggs was a leader of the group. And of course, they went to places like a drug store downtown, a drug store here. The ones that had lunch counters and didn't want you to sit in. They sat in those places. But we never had the unrest that other places had because of these group of people working together. You had, as I said, the Civic League, the Council of Human Relations, and each one supported the others views or tried to help you in the movement. I can't remember of anything like we had in other cities.

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah. I don't recall ever hearing about-

[01:05:00]

MildredLawrence: They had peaceful marches, that was it, where they'd march from here up town. I think that was Smith's Drug Store was one of the main ones. They stopped in front

of [Coleman's 01:05:12], wherever they thought there was an injustice so far as blacks were concerned. They just had this peaceful march.

Nancy Yasecko: And that seemed to affect some change?

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Were there voter registration drives?

[01:06:00] MildredLawrence: Yes, there were many voter registration drives to get the people to come out. I noticed in this Civic League book was it that they appointed each member to be responsible for the people on his street, see to it that everyone is voting, will be voting, or registered, that's it. And there was a time when the books would come over to this side to help them get registered. But If members of the Civic League said, "Go," they went. It was just that much support behind how strong they were. Because the men came from all the churches in the area. It was a cohesive group.

Nancy Yasecko: But that's what makes the difference.

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's see. The churches, of course, played a part in this as well.

MildredLawrence: Yes. I don't know any definite part except made the announcements after the Civic League sent them out.

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative), just a general part of the whole thing.

MildredLawrence: That's right, the whole thing.

[01:07:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Yeah. Okay, back to some of the other things we were talking about here. Um, let's see. I guess the one thing I wanted to ask you about was there was a very famous woman writer who lived in this area for a while.

MildredLawrence: Yes, Zora Neale Hurston. She lived in the Eau Gallie area.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you meet her?

MildredLawrence: Yes, I met her and I heard her lecture once to a program we were some ... Weona Cleveland gave 3 of her books to the library in honor of my mother-in-law who lived 110 years.

Nancy Yasecko: What was your impression of Zora when you first saw her?

[01:08:00] MildredLawrence: I really didn't have much of an impression because the time I saw her, she was dressed like an Indian with a big skirt and her hair tied up, you know, just an

[01:09:00] ordinary person on the street. But what called my attention to her, it was this article she wrote in the Saturday Evening Post, "Mr. Taft, the President" or, "Mr. Taft," or something. And when people found out that someone in Melbourne, it was Eau Gallie, had written the article, that was really how she was introduced to the people in the area. They gave out a Saturday Evening Post that week, everybody ran to get a Post. She lived in just a small house up there in Eau Gallie. She just came here to find a place to write. I understand she had lived and worked in Miami. She worked in Miami and she wrote an article. Of course, said, "The woman who owned the home went in her kitchen and there this person was in her kitchen." She wrote about domestic help. So she lived what she wrote about. You know she worked for this lady long enough as to get the information.

Nancy Yasecko: Write her story. She taught here, didn't she, for a while?

MildredLawrence: They say she taught here. I was gone at that time. Because I came here in '45. Then I left here in the '50s.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess it would have been about that time.

MildredLawrence: Yes, when she was around.

Nancy Yasecko: Then she went and worked over at Patrick Air Force Base for a little while.

MildredLawrence: Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nancy Yasecko: I don't know much, I guess she left after that.

[01:10:00]

MildredLawrence: It appeared that she collected her data and she'd go write her story.

Nancy Yasecko: We haven't had that many famous people live in our neighborhoods.

MildredLawrence: No, we haven't. I'm always saying, "I'm going to write." But I never get any farther than that.

Nancy Yasecko: You should, you should. Somebody should.

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Robert Gilbert: What would you write about?

Nancy Yasecko: What would you write about if you would?

MildredLawrence: I really would like to, I said I could do three books on my husband. I could do three books on my husband but that's as far as I'd get with it.

Nancy Yasecko: Would they each have a different topic?

MildredLawrence: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: What would they be?

MildredLawrence: "How To Be Successful In Landscaping and Gardening," would be one. The next one would be, "Call Him Father." The third one, "A Popular Man." I always like this, "A Popular Man." When I worked at the black schools, if you had problems, you talked to some teacher. You just tell her all your business and she probably carried it someplace else. You'll relieve yourself. One day when I finished my career working over at Indialantic Elementary, there was a female principal and a curriculum coordinator. This morning the coordinator said, "Well, how is Mr. Lawrence today?" That was a day I wasn't feeling so up on him. I said, "I don't know. Things just don't seem to be going right." She said, "Well, I tell you Mrs. Lawrence, he is a popular man." I thought, "If he's so popular, I better not ever say anything about him. Who are you to say that?" That's a, "If he's popular." I never forgot that, "He's a popular man." So I would say I'd write a book about him being a popular man, if I would write the three books.

Nancy Yasecko: Well he had many friends.

MildredLawrence: Oh, yes. Don't you say anything about him because he's a popular man. That's what, he did. He was. He was a fine person.

Nancy Yasecko: You had to have a lot of people over here at your place and have getting-togethers, I guess, political and otherwise?

MildredLawrence: Yes. When we first built the house and when he was here, there was always someone who wanted to come. In the summertime there would be about 2 or 3 barbecues, or clubs that people, they would go out and employ these people with the great smokers to cook this meat all night and bring it in early in the morning. The ladies bring all the food to go with it. They had a band, one group had a band, Jamaicans doing their tricks. It was really nice, really nice.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, I think I'm about at the end of my list, but I'm wondering if there's anything that I left out or anything else that you'd like to share with us?

MildredLawrence: Well, the most we talked about is my life and what happens here. Since that time, they've developed this Stone School has moved from 7th and 6th grade, up to a junior high school, the 9th grade. It has gone through many changes. And we have 2 or 3 housing projects that we didn't have before. And the housing condition has really improved.

Nancy Yasecko: Thank goodness.

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay, cut.

Tell us a little bit about-

MildredLawrence: All right. Harry's children. His son is Harry Lawrence Jr, who's retired Air Force and works as a deputy tax collector. His daughter, [Mabie Ruth 01:14:44] Lawrence, works for early childhood education. And His youngest daughter, Maryann, was working for Harris. So they live in this town and they were very careful about their father. They took care of him. That's about all I can say.

[01:15:00]

[01:17:00]

[01:18:00] All right. The Council of Human Relations met with us a great deal during the transition. And of course, these were representatives from places like The Congregational Church, the Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Beth Sholom, and Melbourne Village. They met over here once a month. Whatever problems they had or issues that people in this community want to talk about, they helped to solve them. We learned a lot. They would take you places.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us about that.

MildredLawrence: Well, I know I was asked to go to the theater one evening with five women. There was a man and his wife who belonged to the council that were participants in this play. And that went well.

[01:19:00]

Nancy Yasecko: You say they asked you to come, spell it out a little bit more. I guess there hadn't been any blacks in-

MildredLawrence: I think what they did, they scouted for places that blacks had not been accustomed to going. They would invite you to go along with them.

Nancy Yasecko: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Nobody's going to say anything.

MildredLawrence: No, as long as you were with them.

Nancy Yasecko: That kind of broke the-

MildredLawrence: Yes-

Nancy Yasecko: Barrier.

MildredLawrence: Barrier, that went down. Now, back to our Ted Nichols who became the Councilman. These people worked very closely with him. And after he left the council, he moved to Miami and he became an attorney. I often wondered what happened. But one of these women saw him, he worked at the University of Miami's Law School. I think from the connection there to him is how he was able to advance. So They just ... If you had problems over here, you would bring it up to the council and, of course, they would find a way-

[01:20:00]

Nancy Yasecko: They would try to help.

MildredLawrence: Help solve it. I believe this really had a great deal to do with the smoothness in which we moved into ...

Nancy Yasecko: Some big changes.

MildredLawrence: Changes, that's right.

Nancy Yasecko: It never stops. There's still changes to be made, I'm sure.

MildredLawrence: The people are from the village, most of those people from Melbourne Village, they were great supporters of the council. They came over here to the meeting, and it was almost like the graduation exercise. We gave a banquet out at the Trade Winds cafeteria. And they had 400 people at this banquet. And most half of them were these people from the village and their friends. And they said that this is the first time in this area that blacks and whites ate together, or socialized in a social setting.

[01:21:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Did it go pretty well?

MildredLawrence: It went quite well. I think what happened at this particular banquet, the blacks wore dress clothes until the whites were sitting there saying, "Well, if I had known, I would have worn this." But it went well.

Nancy Yasecko: Everybody had a good time?

MildredLawrence: They had a good time. They found that they weren't hurt by eating at the same table, what they said, breaking bread at the same table. It was a great success.

Nancy Yasecko: That's a pretty large scale endeavor.

MildredLawrence: Yes, but it worked.

Nancy Yasecko: But it worked.

[01:22:00]

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I know that as they would hear about problems, they would come to these meetings once a month, and they would hear something about these problems, and they would intercede. And of course, these people that I named, they were the ministers of these churches. This minister was very active at Beth Sholom. He left here and he didn't go to Switzerland, but someplace over there. He was young, very energetic, Rabbi [Narra 01:22:40] had a lot of wonderful ideas. It's just interesting to see the group of people who supported, the churches that supported this organization. The Unitarians, the Quakers. They lived out in Melbourne Village.

[01:23:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Good piece of history there.

MildredLawrence: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Nancy Yasecko: Okay.