

## **MILFORD RUBY**

**Interview 195a**

**May 12, 2010, at The History Center, Diboll, Texas**

**Becky Donohoe, Interviewer**

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**ABSTRACT:** In this interview with Becky Donohoe, Milford Ruby reminisces about his life in Diboll as a child and an adult. He moved to Diboll with his family from Fastrill in 1941, settling in the Red Town neighborhood. He attended Diboll schools starting in 1941 and graduated in 1949. Mr. Ruby raised his children in Diboll and took part in many community activities, particularly the Little League. He was in charge of the Diboll Little League program during the school integration process, and oversaw the integration of that program as well.

**Becky Donahoe (hereafter BD):** My name is Becky Donahoe and I am interviewing Milford Ruby. Today's date is May 12, 2010 and we are going to be addressing the subject of integration in Diboll, Texas. So, first Milford I would like to ask you just a little personal information, where you were born and when and a little bit about your mom and dad.

**Milford Ruby (hereafter MR):** I was born June 21, 1932 in a little community in Houston County called Percilla, Texas.

**BD:** That is a new one on me.

**MR:** P-e-r-c-i-l-l-a, just like it's pronounced and it still exists, the little community does. There is nothing there when I was there but a store and a post office and a church and the school. We lived two and a half miles out in the country. My dad had a little farm and my mom stayed at home and corralled me and my two sisters. We had a first cousin that lost their parents and they lived...she lived with us. We left Percilla, I don't remember what month, it was 1940. My dad's brother-in-law worked for Temple, Southern Pine Lumber Company and he told them he needed to get off that farm and come to work for Southern Pine they was paying a dollar a day. So, we moved to Fastrill, Texas in 1940 but we knew they were moving everybody out. Daddy came home from work one evening and said "we are moving tomorrow to Diboll." We didn't know where Diboll was and we moved into what they called Red Town. It's down where the First Baptist Church is now, in that area. All the houses were the rooms were bolted together so they could unbolt them and move them to another location. They said we would stay here ten years and we'd be out of logs but, we are still here. This is what...more than ten years.

**BD:** Yes, more than ten years later that is for sure.

**MR:** More than ten years but, anyway we stayed on and Daddy went to work for the company as a mule skinner. People don't know what mule skinner are. They think they skin mules. What they do is the same thing that timber jacks do now. They cut smaller

logs and they drag them to the skidway and load them on trucks with mules and haul them into the plant.

**BD:** So this is already after trains weren't being used.

**MR:** Right, well the trains were being used but they would haul out into the woods. They would haul them in log trucks. The trains would come in from...well when we lived in Fastrill we only stayed there a year and we moved to Diboll June 21, 1941. I was nine years old and it was raining cats and dogs. But, they would load the logs up there and haul them into Diboll...into Fastrill. Load them on a train and haul them into Diboll. The old tram is still partially intact from here to Fastrill. Fastrill doesn't exist. They got a tree farm there now, but when we moved down here they loaded all of our stuff on a flatbed truck and it was raining. We didn't have a piece of furniture. We couldn't even stay home for three or four days. Mr. Henry Temple was the CEO of Southern Pine and he got a hold of my dad and told him to go up in the old commissary which they just tore down and get what he needed to take up housekeeping again. The old commissary was the Diboll mall. It had a meat market. It had a grocery store. It had a dry good store, it had vegetables. It had a barber shop. It had a drug store, post office and upstairs was a doctor's office and over on the south end of the building you could even buy your caskets. There was no money. You were paid in Temple money and if you wanted to go to town you had to find somebody that had money and swap them Temple money for real money. And, we are still here after...my mother when we moved to Diboll she went to work for Temple White, painted handles. She worked for Frosty Davis and Louis Landers dad, Son, Son Landers.

**BD:** Oh really!

**MR:** We lived in Red Town for well I don't know, I don't even remember when we left there. Probably in the forties because I graduated from high school in '49 and we moved down to where Cathcart's office is now.

**BD:** Oh okay.

**MR:** That was our first home out of Red Town.

**BD:** And it was yours, not a company house?

**MR:** No, it was ours, we bought it. Mr. Temple was trying to get rid of all these houses. I think Daddy paid like three or four thousand dollars for it and the property. They didn't want them. When we moved here there was only about two houses that wasn't owned by Temple. One of them set down here about where city hall is now, maybe a little farther back and one was over in the quarters on the west side of the track. They was the only people that had any money the ones over there.

**BD:** Because they were real...

**MR:** They ran a grocery store and later on Carl Pavlic had a grocery store over there and then he moved up here where the little ice house is now.

**BD:** I remember that store.

**MR:** But Mother worked for Temple White, well Dad retired from Southern Pine and Mother retired from Temple White and they have both gone on to their rewards and I'm still here.

**BD:** Well when did they move over to the house by the Methodist church?

**MR:** That came after I got out of the service. I got out of the service in '55. They swapped houses with James Ferguson's mom and dad and that is when they moved there.

**BD:** Oh okay.

**MR:** Well, I'm not real sure. I got out of the army in '55, so it was after that. It wasn't long though. It might have been in '55 though.

**BD:** Okay.

**MR:** But that is when they moved over there. Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson said it's too big for us well, it was too big for us too or too big for them and it was too big for us because it was only three of us. My sister was married and gone but Momma and Daddy thought they had to raise all their kids for them so....

**BD:** I know how that goes. So, the whole time you were in school the races were separated?

**MR:** Yes and, I'm not sure the year, it was in the sixties I know, but I don't know when. Our little league program, I missed a meeting and got elected president of little league and stayed there twenty years. But when we started or when I took over as little league president we couldn't even field four teams. We only had three and we went to Corrigan. Corrigan sent a team up here for a couple of years and then I think Huntington sent a team over.

**BD:** Okay so this is real little league not...it's the official?

**MR:** Yes, this is nine through twelve year olds, official little league out of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

**BD:** Okay. So, did they have any younger, tee ball or anything?

**MR:** No tee ball at that time.

**BD:** Okay so it was just kids played sand lot ball and then they graduate to...

**MR:** That is it and then they went on higher up. I think they...we might have had some coaches that would take them but it wasn't little league, it was just like they are now. But the year I quit down there and I don't remember what year that was when I finally just told them I had enough, I think Alvin Faske and I don't remember who else was in on it but, they started the tee-ball.

**BD:** Oh okay.

**MR:** We got out and that is when they decided to get out of little league and that is when I quit when they got into the independent league because we didn't charge them to play. The concession stand supported our program. That paid for the lights and it paid for the insurance. We didn't have to pay people to run it. We had to pay the umpires and that is all. Everything else was volunteered. We couldn't charge admission but we did pass a collection.

**BD:** Plate. (laughter)

**MR:** At the little league. I know Mr. Temple would...because David Wimp played some with us and when Mr. Temple was in town he was down there, he and Lottie. We played right about in here where we at right now, where the History Center is.

**BD:** Oh, not where the park is now?

**MR:** No, it was right out here. Mr. Temple I know one night threw a hundred dollar bill in the pot. Mr. Ben Anthony said, "Arthur you don't have to give that much money." And, Mr. Temple told him, "Ben you give what you want and I give what I want." I said, "Hooray for Mr. Temple." But we didn't pay nobody. It was strictly...and we furnished the uniforms, the balls, the bats, the whole nine yards. And then they could not use aluminum bats. They could only use wood bats. Aluminum bats wasn't even...in fact I found an aluminum bat out at my house but I don't know what year I got it from the Little League Association. It's been there so long the aluminum is splitting on it. It's still in the box but the stamp doesn't show what year I got it. They were sending them out to show what we were fixing to go to. But the only thing the kid had to furnish was their shoes and a glove.

**BD:** Okay, I didn't get it down. You said it was about 1960 when you started, when you were elected?

**MR:** No, it was earlier than that because I had just got married and I think I got married in '55 I believe. I am not sure. I haven't found my marriage license since Ruth passed away so I don't know. I know I got married because I was there but...(laughter). But, we went to St. Louis in '57.

**BD:** So, you had already been doing it.

**MR:** I had already been president...well no I was still a manager so I was president after '57. It was before sixty I think, pretty sure it was because Mr. Brown retired, I mean he quit. He retire, he quit.

**BD:** That is what you finally have to do with these volunteer things.

**MR:** That is right.

**BD:** You just finally have to quit. Could you tell me what the facilities were like for the black children who were playing baseball? I'm sure they were playing, did they have a league?

**MR:** They didn't have a league. They played basketball on a dirt court outside at H. G. Temple which is now the Temple Elementary. They had an outdoor facility for basketball. I don't remember. I know they had baseball, they had football, no lights. I mean it was strictly a daytime league. And when they said we was going to integrate I went over to H. G. Temple and Willie Massey I guess was the superintendent.

**BD:** Or assistant.

**MR:** I told him what I was over there for and he said, "Well let me get them in an assembly." I went in and talked to the kids and told them what we were doing. Ages nine to twelve and the only thing you got to have is a birth certificate. You got to have that because that's a little league requirement. All right, nobody showed up, so I went back again. Nobody showed up for the little league program. They showed up to hear the talk. The third time well I told them, you know, it was safe to come across over there. There wasn't nobody going to harm them, "Come on over, we need you." I think they bused them in after that. I never saw so many kids in my life come across there to come over here. But, anyway we got it all started and I had some looloo's in there. Oh!

**BD:** How many teams did you end up with?

**MR:** Well we got up to eight before it was over with.

**BD:** Oh okay, eight teams.

**MR:** Now it took a little time to do that, but we did official...later on we got to eight teams and it was all Diboll teams. We didn't have to go.

**BD:** No more Corrigan teams, okay.

**MR:** No more Corrigan or Huntington or any of those. It was strictly our boys.

**BD:** Okay.

**MR:** Travis Groom and J. I. Beaty, Marvin Baker and his brother Eugene Baker, that was Joel's daddy, Eugene, they were the ones I depended on to call the games because we had to furnish two umpires. They would flip to see who was going to call home plate. If you got home I called second and the other two called first and third. That is the way it worked. That was in league play now. Just the regular games we usually had two umpires out there if we could get them. But those were...those four were very good. Pop Rich was big in the little league then and Monk Warner, who used to run the Gulf Station over here, Carol and Ann Dover and my wife and Monk's wife was...well Carol was a coach. Ann and Ruth and Mrs. Warner were the three that really ran the concession stand. This was four nights a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

**BD:** Was it just summer?

**MR:** Yes, we didn't start the Little League program until school was out.

**BD:** Until school was out.

**MR:** We didn't want anything to interfere with...education was first.

**BD:** I am surprised, you didn't even have a kid old enough to play.

**MR:** I didn't have nobody old enough to play. Craig was playing but he wasn't old enough.

**BD:** (Laughter) Oh my!

**MR:** But that is how you get hooked into these things. He was...in fact he used to stand out here in this center field and get mad because Travis Groom wouldn't play catch with him while the game was going on. (laughter) There wasn't a whole lot of activity out in center field.

**BD:** No, there is not.

**MR:** I wish I could remember, Adrian Russell and Norris Cook was always over there. Fred Weeks, Sr. the constable then was always over there and they was security.

**BD:** Did you have any black coaches or helpers, assistants.

**MR:** Later on we did.

**BD:** But not at first.

**MR:** In the beginning we didn't. They were still a little scared because the law here was mean and I know I shouldn't have said that but anyway it was Mr. Boren. I guess they, I don't know if they were scared of him or respected him, whichever, but one or the other

and they weren't after five o'clock you didn't see one of them come on this side of the railroad track. I mean, they stayed on the west side and we stayed on the east side.

**BD:** And, that is the way it was.

**MR:** That was before housing authorities and all of that. I mean, now there were a few houses, Mr. Boren lived on the west side. When you cross the tracks over here coming up from the highway here, I don't even know what it is. What is that, Martin Luther King or does that start at the railroad tracks?

**BD:** I can't remember.

**MR:** Anyway you cross the track and turn left where the Boys and Girls Club is.

**BD:** Right.

**MR:** There was about five or six houses down there that were all white people.

**BD:** Oh okay.

**MR:** Mr. Frank Smith lived in one, Jay Boren lived in one, Joe Donald Smith's mom and dad lived in one and I can't remember who the others were but, they lived all the way from that corner down. In fact Mr. Boren's house was probably about where the Boys & Girls Club is now and behind it was the calaboose. We didn't have a jail we had a calaboose. And, that is where he would lock them up until he could get them to Lufkin. The payroll for Temple would come in on a train and it looked like the old western days. Jay Boren and Ed Watson would ride the train and get off and stop the train over there and they would open up the baggage car doors and they would step off with their shotguns and rifles and have the strong box of money and carry into Temple's office.

**BD:** That is when everybody got paid with cash wasn't it?

**MR:** Well no they would pay you in cash kind of like when I worked for Eden Birch. They would pay you in cash well, Eden's Birch owned the Chevrolet place, the grocery store, the furniture store, and they charged everything so, we'd give you your check and then we'd give you your bills. (laughter)

**BD:** Yes.

**MR:** But they did, they would pay and then later they got to paying in cash. You'd have a little envelope with your name. You could go up and draw money all during the week. Some of them didn't even get a payday by the time Friday got there.

**BD:** Well how long do you think it was before you started having coaches that were black and people that were...

**MR:** I don't remember. We didn't get a whole lot of support out of the black people coming over to watch their kid play.

**BD:** Okay, that was my next thing.

**MR:** I don't know if they, like I say, if they were afraid they weren't welcome or what it was.

**BD:** It didn't come either.

**MR:** It didn't come soon. It was a pretty good...a few years before they...none of them were mistreated.

**BD:** Well how did the kids get along? Because, they are not used to being with each other.

**MR:** We had more trouble over the black on black or white on white than we did.

**BD:** Oh!

**MR:** In fact I went over there one evening and the boy ran out to the car. I'd go at five o'clock when I'd get off work and I'd come straight here. The boy said "Mr. Ruby you better get over there." He called the boys name and said, "He's hanging one." I thought, "Yes, I know it." So, I got over there and he was. He had his hands tied behind him and he strung him up in that dug out. I said, "What in the world." He said, "Well Mr. Ruby he ain't no good, he ain't worth nothing. I thought I'd just get him out of his misery." Twelve years old. I don't know what happened to the boy. His daddy was as good a man as you would ever want to know. His daddy worked over at the treating plant. I had them later on that has gone to prison for murder. I had them in little league. They were mean then but, then you could...the discipline factor was a little different back then than it is now. I had a twenty nine inch ball bat that had been split where a boy hit the ball and it split it. I've still got it at the house and I've busted more rear ends with that for fighting and carrying on. I carried that bat with me all the time. You couldn't do that now, but you could then.

**BD:** Large and in charge.

**MR:** We had...I mean it was...you don't have a whole lot of friends when you get into something like that. It's kind of like being an elected official. I served nine years on the school board and I didn't have a whole lot of friends. I served 20 years in the Little League and I didn't have them. But we got along great. I never did, I only got threatened one time and everything went fine. We had all...I went down there one year and about two weeks before season started and flipped the lights on and everyone of them had been shot out and back then they were only \$8.95 a piece. Today they are probably \$25 or \$30 apiece. So we had to raise some money but we never...the year I taken over as president we were broke and I went to the house and me and my wife sat down and drafted a letter

to every business in Angelina County and in a week's time we had close to \$3000. We didn't ask for any certain amount but, every one of them practically every one of them gave us something. That is how we got our money then.

**BD:** That is great. Well, how old was Craig whenever integration came around then? Because he is older than I.

**MR:** Well he was already in school because he said last night and I don't remember when he started to school, but he said when he was in elementary there wasn't any blacks. But now, I think they were already in high school.

**BD:** That is what I was thinking. In '66 and '67 they were in high school.

**MR:** There weren't any in elementary.

**BD:** Okay.

**MR:** So, that came a year later or so before I guess they wanted to see how it was going to work. But, we didn't have any problem and I think it was all due to Mr. Arthur Temple's mother because when they built the swimming pool over here she said, "I want one built on the white side and I want one on the black side." They had identical things that we had over here. She said, "I'll give this much money but this is the way it's going to be."

**BD:** And so you knew the Temple family was behind it.

**MR:** We didn't have any problem with integration here.

**BD:** So as a parent because you'd already been working with the boys and all you didn't feel...?

**MR:** It went smooth here. I mean it was...if we had any problems nobody knew about them. I think they have more problems today than they did then.

**BD:** Back then, it could be.

**MR:** It's been in here for twenty, thirty, forty years and but we didn't have...you know our neighbor up north of us had a lot of trouble. In fact, I think they just got out from under it a few years ago.

**BD:** Yes, they did. Is there anything else you would like to share? You are just full of stories. I was wanting to know one thing, whenever you moved in from Fastrill how were the kids from Fastrill accepted in the school here?

**MR:** We weren't! Well, we were accepted in the schools, but we weren't accepted in the churches. I am a member of First Methodist Church and when I moved here we weren't welcome at the First Methodist Church in Diboll.

**BD:** Isn't that something.

**MR:** So, down here in I think it would probably be Rutland Street, at the far north end there was an old scout house and that is where we had church. We had our own church and we later built a church next door to it. We had our own preacher and Mrs. Fannie Farrington and Mrs. Ruth Tatum and Mrs. Ballenger. She lived right up here in Copetown we called it. They were the ones that formed the church and we had our own church. In fact my dad was on the board of that church. We had our own preachers and back then the Methodist Youth Fellowship was very strong. We had a little church down at Red Town and we'd go to church every month and the ones that had the most attendance won the banner. We had a whole wall full of banners. We got a bus, one of the colored men over here had a bus and we would hire that bus to take our bunch. We would have 25 or 30 kids and First Methodist Church would have about like they do now six or eight. They never did have no youth down there. And we would win it, in fact Alice Halsell she went to church down there with us.

**BD:** Oh did she?

**MR:** Yes, she didn't come here from Fastrill with me, but Alice and I go way back. Mrs. Tatum, I never will forget Mrs. Tatum, she played the piano. We was playing one night the song "Nearer my God to Thee" she reached over to hit a key and the stool broke. (laughter) Of course she got up, well they had to just stop church, everybody after her husband started laughing well and the daughter. And one time she dropped her book and everybody kept singing and rather than her starting where we was at she started where she was at when she dropped the book and played real fast till she caught up. (laughter) But, we had a lot of fun. The Miranda's went to that church, in fact, when we moved to Fastrill from the little farm we lived in a railroad car on the tracks. The Miranda's house sat right here so when the track come in there was a fence between us. I'd never seen a Hispanic person in my life. They like to have scared me to death when I saw them. Al and Isadore and well Matilda wasn't born then I don't think. She came later. But Leon Grumbles, first wife and my youngest sister grew up together actually and she couldn't speak, Rose Marie, she couldn't speak English and my sister couldn't speak Spanish and they played together all day long, this one speaking Spanish and this one English. They never had a cross word, just like they knew what each other was talking about.

**BD:** Isn't that something. And they moved into Diboll too?

**MR:** They moved down here when we did, Riley Carr, they went to Longstreet Louisiana and we came to Diboll. In about four years or five years later they moved to Diboll.

**BD:** The whole crew.

**MR:** There was just a lot of Diboll, I mean they are all gone on now though. The Burchfields and...

**BD:** I just remember Mrs. Bea saying how many kids there were and they weren't prepared at the school. There were so many children.

**MR:** Well when we moved in '41 there was only eleven grades in school. In 1941 when we started they put in twelve grades and so everybody got put up a year. That is where your twelfth grade came from. Eleventh graders went to the twelfth and the tenth graders went to the eleventh and like that so, I skipped the fourth grade. I moved in the third grade and went...and what is so funny about this when I was going to that little school in Pricilla the principal of that school was Claude McCloud, born and raised up there in that addition. In fact Becky Love's husband...

**BD:** Pickney?

**MR:** ...was preaching up there before he got the church here and the church is where Claude McCloud went to church when he was a kid up there in Liberty Hill community.

**BD:** Oh my.

**MR:** But anyway, Claude was our principal. We moved, we left the farm and moved to Fastrill in 1940 and I went to the fifth grade in '42, '43, '44, what '45 I would have been in high school?

**BD:** Yes, because you said you graduated in '49.

**MR:** I went to high school Claude McCloud came to Diboll, Texas as an Ag teacher.

**BD:** You'd seen him before.

**MR:** He lived right here where the highway is now, where the old highway goes up through there, there was the superintendent and all the teachers that lived in Diboll lived right there.

**BD:** Oh, on the same street.

**MR:** Yes.

**BD:** I guess as a child you don't remember the number of kids but, Mrs. Bea told me there was like forty five in her class that year and as a former teacher I cannot imagine that.

**MR:** I don't remember how many we had but, there was quite a few of us. And, you know, they had the old...over there about where Brookshire's parking lot and part of the

highway out here there was a semi-pro baseball team then. The Millers, the Diboll Millers and they had a big stadium built over there. It even had covers over the bleachers, wooden, everything was wooden. In fact, Louis's dad played on it, Frosty Davis, Bennie Rector, Wanda Clark's daddy Ray Rector, Jack Cook Sweeny's father Jack Sweeny, all them guys played on it.

**BD:** On that team.

**MR:** There was a lot more but that is the only ones I can remember off hand. And, when we had the old commissary Dorothy Farley's daddy was the butcher, Mr. Cruthirds. And I'm trying to remember some of the other guys, Waltman, Mr. Waltman was in the produce. Mrs. Fannie Farrington ran the dry goods. Glen Hines father, Bernice Hines was the druggist. He ran the drugstore and there was a Mrs. Bourrous and I think she might be kin to the school police officer now. She was the post master and Dr. J. R. Dale was the doctor upstairs and that is about the only ones I can remember. But, I know we lived down in Red Town and that was the only store that went over across the tracks. We called it Store No. 2. Mother would send me to the store and I told her it was too far to walk and I'd have to ride my stick horse. It wasn't too far to ride it. (laughter) I'd ride that stick horse to the store.

**BD:** To the store, oh goodness.

**MR:** We didn't have...when we moved here we had electricity, we had water, we didn't have any indoor plumbing. Well water was indoors but no bathrooms. The bathrooms were outside.

**BD:** Outside.

**MR:** If you wanted a house and I think they were three bedrooms the best I can remember. A kitchen and living room, no fireplace everything was wood, wood heaters and wood stoves, you could rent one if you wanted a garage and on the garage you had a wash house where you could do your laundry, rub boards and all. Then you had a storage building and you had one for your chickens. Seven dollars a month, if you didn't want a garage it was six dollars a month. There wasn't no telephone, in fact in Red Town there was one telephone and it was on our front porch and it was for everybody down there to use. But, you could only call Store No. 1, Store No. 2, the doctor's office and I think the fire department, they blowed whistles then and Jay Boren. That is all you could call. It was the old ringer type.

**BD:** Oh me.

**MR:** Everything else was furnished. I mean your water was furnished, your electricity was furnished, and you paid for your rent. Well you weren't making much more than that a week or month, or week anyway. I mean eleven dollars was...

**BD:** Yes, that was a week's worth of wages.

**MR:** That is right.

**BD:** Okay, there is only one more story I want to hear. I want you to tell the story about going to St. Louis again with your ball team.

**MR:** Well we left here, like Mr. Temple told, he furnished the transportation. We got up to Jacksonville and George Honea's daddy had us a sleeper car. We couldn't let the beds down but, we did have our own private rooms, you know.

**BD:** And how many boys did you take?

**MR:** We had probably about fourteen, fourteen or fifteen. It was me, Mr. Brown and Mr. Mansell and those boys.

**BD:** And that was in '57?

**MR:** Yes.

**BD:** Okay.

**MR:** And we got to St. Louis and like I say Mr. Fay Burns had our hotel rooms and they were furnished by Fleischel Lumber Company and he called Solly Hemis and told him a bunch of boys from Diboll, Texas were coming up there and he wanted to give them the red carpet treatment. So, we got there on a Friday night, we went to the game on Saturday. They had to wear their uniforms.

**BD:** And this is the St. Louis Cardinals, right?

**MR:** St. Louis Cardinals. We got to the gate well the scouts for St. Louis met the boys and carried them down into the locker rooms and they had their pictures made with the players. We came back up to our seats which were also furnished by Fleischel Lumber Company, well courtesy of the Cardinals too. Then they were recognized on the PA system as the group from Texas Little Leaguers, All Stars from Diboll, Texas. And, they all stood up and got a round of applause from the people. So, we go back that night to the hotel. It wasn't tv, well I don't even think there was tv's then, might have been, I guess there was. Half of us didn't know what they was but anyway, we walked down to this restaurant to eat and found out those people were from Pineland. They had been running a restaurant up there for several years. We got up Sunday morning, went down and had breakfast and made arrangements to check out and store all of our luggage and we got cabs and went to the St. Louis Zoo. That is when we got our bath. It rained hard on us so, we came back and changed clothes and went to the depot about 2:30 and 3 o'clock and boarded the train. They had half of the car reserved for us and then I don't know it was probably around five o'clock we marched them all down to the dining room to eat and that is when they all got a little nauseated. And, we was coming back, we came back to the car and everybody got...went to sleep. We got to Texarkana, Texas and we stopped

and this man came on with his daughter and his daughter was probably fourteen, fifteen years old and she was traveling to Houston by herself to see a doctor by herself. He came in and he said I know half this car is reserved but, he asked me he said "do you mind if my daughter sits by you?" I said "I'm not going but another 150 miles." He said "that is all right, you look like a person I could trust." I said "I hope so because I got all these kids out here." Anyway, she sat by me until we got to Diboll, or to Jacksonville and then we all got off and that was about nine or ten o'clock the next morning. A. V. White was one of the car drivers and I don't remember who the other guys were, picked us up in...back then they were called Carryalls, today they are called suburban's, and rode us into Diboll.

**BD:** And all of that was courtesy of Mr. Temple then, or part of it?

**MR:** Well the cars were furnished by Mr. Temple. The railroad car was furnished by George Honea's father. The baseball tickets was I think probably courtesy of the Cardinals. The hotel room and taxi service was Fleischel Lumber Company and the money was the people of Diboll.

**BD:** Because they sent money with each kid.

**MR:** Well we had the money and each one had it and then when we come back what was left over went back into the little league fund. But, every kid had the same amount of money every time we went anywhere.

**BD:** What did they do to get this?

**MR:** Just kind of like Diboll Day just different activities going on to raise the money for us.

**BD:** Oh okay. And so, the kids won the league down here or why did they get?

**MR:** Well we didn't win but I think it was three games but nobody had ever gotten out of Diboll playing Little League All-stars. We beat Pineland and we beat Jasper and Crockett and went to Carthage and got the hum beat out of us. (laughter) Back then it was you could use school buses and all the school buses were stored in Lufkin so, we would go up to Mr. T. J. Wilroy and make a request for a bus. But, every year I carried I don't know two busloads anyway of kids to the astrodome and Mrs. Lottie Temple furnished the tickets for that. I never had any problems. We would go down there and I'd say, now ya'll know where the bus is and y'all know when the game is over and I'm not going to spend time looking for you. You know how to get there and if you don't you know where we are at. We are all sitting right here behind you. We never had any problems. They were all there and we'd call the roll to make sure they were all on the bus and we'd carry a picnic lunch and as we went down we'd stop at the San Jacinto River and eat. We'd make arrangements when we went through to stop somewhere to feed them on the way back.

**BD:** Well that is a nice way to end this unless you've got something else you want to say.

**MR:** I don't know of anything.

**BD:** Okay.

**MR:** I hope half of this is truth. (laughter)

**BD:** So do I! Thanks for your time.

**MR:** Okay.

**END OF INTERVIEW**