

Anderson Broussard: - the box [indistinct 00:00:05] So Mr. Young come there, the Young children told me what they do and I told them, I said, "That ain't alright." He said, "That ain't going to work." I said, "That ain't going to work." He said, "How you know that?" I said, "I'm born and raised here." See, you let that south wind blow, just like some of my folk take a bucket and pour water on the floor.

Michele Mitchell: Really? Just water coming in?

Anderson Broussard: Sure. That's the water, that's that dampness from the south. I know that. I know those things just going to be. So what I do, I know how to handle and check it. So I went got some salt that we had, put in boxes, better than two years, I poured it on that. I said, "Now this is good salt." He said, "How you all manage to [indistinct 00:01:18]?" I said, "Because I know what to do." As long as the north, you got a dry climate.

Michele Mitchell: Right.

Anderson Broussard: It take the south and its dampness and I born and raised here and I know. I told them, he told the superintendent, "If he tell y'all to do something, y'all better do it." They had 24,000 cases come back, come and [indistinct 00:01:57] all over the country, they had to send them cases back.

Michele Mitchell: Really?

Anderson Broussard: All that material was lost. Well, I told him it wasn't going to work. He said, "I never do that again." He said, "When you tell me something, I listen to what you have to say." I said, "Well, Mr. Young, you the superintendent of all them plants and you supposed to know." I said, "I told you cutting back don't- " I said, "Making 2,500 cases and you can sell every one, you make 3,000 and you can't sell four. What you want to do with that?" But when I told him that, he looked at me. He said, "Anderson, you know." Well, I know, I'd been through that. Well, you make 4,000 case, you've got 2,000 you can't do nothing with, 3,000. 30,000 you can't do nothing with. You got to throw that away, all that salt in them bins you got to get rid of.

Anderson Broussard: So when i told him that, he told them, he come from Chicago to Lafayette and he got a call from Lafayette, come to [indistinct 00:03:47] and the first man he asked for was me. So he asked Chicky Broussard- He White, but he kin to me. He asked [indistinct 00:04:03] say, "Anderson on the mezzanine floor." Say, "I want to see him." Say, "If you want to see him, you got to go up there because he ain't going to come down. He'll tell y'all he's busy and you can't come now." They're worried them winters up in them big doors, the old big slide doors, just like you take and throw water on that gallery.

Anderson Broussard: That south wind blow off that Gulf, all that dampness come down. The guy laughed. When I told him that, he told me, he told Chicky Broussard and all them y'all better listen if you want this

plant to stay open. I said, "We can't buy stuff and throw it away." He said, "Them men send that salt up here. Y'all got to do the right thing." They wanted me to work till I was 68 years old.

Michele Mitchell: They wanted you to work till you were 68?

Anderson Broussard: Uh-huh.

Michele Mitchell: But you quit when you were 62.

Anderson Broussard: Oh, yeah. I asked the Lord if he let me live till I get 63 years old. If I was counting money, I can get away from that. You know what I was doing when I was 63 years old? I was— Every department was there. I had a jug for coffee in every one. I had cups, spoons for everyone. And the big gang, I had three-gallon jugs, two-gallon jugs, I carried them in the office. You take our Colored people, now they take a Negro, he's from Four Corner, he was working there in them [indistinct 00:06:45] at the mill, at the office. He was new. It didn't carry no good. He mop, he [indistinct 00:07:04] the mop on the floor. What it take for him to come to that door and get two thermos bottle, go put them on a shelf they built there in the corner and come get a cup with the handles on it?

Michele Mitchell: Mm-hmm.

Anderson Broussard: No. He wouldn't come get them. I would have to go in there and put them things there. [indistinct 00:07:45] reason that now, you know what happened?

Michele Mitchell: Mm-mm.

Anderson Broussard: I'm going to tell you what happened. They took him out there and they put a woman in. White woman in. Now when they come down, they put him, they worked him like a dog and they treated him like a dog. He wouldn't work with me. You see, our color work [indistinct 00:08:05] together. They won't work with each other. Now I already took him to come to that door and get that coffee and a pack of cups. [indistinct 00:08:05] All had to do can get them cups. Now what they done, they told him— He took sick on the job, they had to get rid of him. They got rid of him. He's farming and he had to stop farming. They got rid of him. Now he can't do— When I see him, I hollered at him, I said, [indistinct 00:09:03] He [indistinct 00:09:05] look at me and "Brouss, I tell you, you can't do wrong and get by." I said, "You got to treat everybody right if you want to [indistinct 00:09:19] God."

Anderson Broussard: I said, [indistinct 00:09:20] I used to send coffee in the morning when they didn't— I used to send that jug of coffee down there, send cups down there, send the foreman of the mine. You know what they used to do when I'd send that coffee there? He'd take charge and see all of them get coffee. He'd drink what he want, then he'd see that all the men get the coffee. I used to send coffee. The men always telling my son, different ones send me word, different be telling me, send me word, different ones be sending me word. Why? It's better to be kind to people and be nice with people. It pay you, you don't lose nothing. [indistinct 00:10:17] laugh at me. Because I done made my [indistinct 00:10:23] I ain't want to have

nothing to worry about. All I got to do is take it easy and live. God let me live, so I don't have nothing to worry about. His wife quit him. He's mean to her.

Michele Mitchell: He sounds like something else.

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: He sounds like something else, this man.

Anderson Broussard: Oh, he was something. Oh, he was mean to his wife. All the children left him. He's farming and he's [indistinct 00:11:14] He want to be putting his faith in the other womens' affairs and don't want his wife to talk to nobody. I used to laugh at him. I tell him, I said, "Man, I got a pretty wife. I don't think about them women." I said, "I don't laugh. I don't think about that." Let me tell you one thing. Let me tell you, when you do right, always good coming for you. I served on the clinic's board, I was Chairman of the Rules Committee. I was—

Michele Mitchell: Do you want this back on?

Anderson Broussard: Huh? No, you want to put it back on? According to how you want it.

Michele Mitchell: No, I'm fine.

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, so I left and I left. For me, I don't have no regrets. God has spared me to live through this life and I have nothing regrets. Now I sit on the board, on the clinic's board, the clinic in Franklin. The board, I stayed on that three years. They had two nurses there, they called Donna Marie and Marie. So I [indistinct 00:13:23] I took them to the house one time. They come here and I took them to the house. You going to ask me. [indistinct 00:13:35] none of my gal, I said, "None of them—" So they had a White fellow, was there showing them different things. [indistinct 00:13:50] whisper in my ear. [indistinct 00:13:56] I said, "What?" She say, "Nothing [indistinct 00:14:01]" I say [indistinct 00:14:06] She say, "I'm not going to tell you about that." She said, "A man is the thing that I look at." She say, "It ain't the color. I look at the man."

Michele Mitchell: Right.

Anderson Broussard: So he come back. Moments [indistinct 00:14:40] Them two women, they were young women, about, one was 21, 24 years old. So I look at it, I said, "What one do you want?" He said, "I like that." I said, "You like that one?" I said, "I didn't know you still liked that one, but she don't like you." He said, "How you know that? You must be their dad." I said, "I ain't their nothing." But I said, "I know the schools and the [indistinct 00:15:25]" Let me tell you one thing. What's your name?

Michele Mitchell: Michelle.

Anderson Broussard: Michelle, I couldn't walk. Girl, I had arthritis so bad. I couldn't get out the bed. So God let me [indistinct 00:15:58] So she come in that door just like that with them folders in her arm, one arm, like you got there. She called my name. "Anderson Broussard." You know what she used to do? [indistinct 00:16:11] I had a big White [indistinct 00:16:13] She used to bring— They bring me that. She used to come with that wheelchair and help me herself. I [indistinct 00:16:36] but I never thought it would happen to me.

Anderson Broussard: So she used to help my daughter-in-law, all of them, with me, [indistinct 00:16:49] and my wife. All of them. So she take [indistinct 00:16:52] from them. So one time I went there, God let me walk. So I drove my car and I went to Franklin to get my check-up. So she used to come in that door like that. She say, "Anderson Broussard." I didn't say nothing. She'd say, "Anderson Broussard." I say, "Yeah." Boy, that [indistinct 00:17:33] When I said, "Yeah." So I stood up, she raised my arm, crying.

Anderson Broussard: She said, "You wasn't supposed to walk no more." I said, "Why is that?" She said, "From the pictures of your leg, you wasn't supposed to walk no more." I said, "Well, the good Lord didn't say that. Man said that, that ain't the good Lord. The good Lord didn't say that." So Dr. Welsh and Dr. [indistinct 00:18:06] so he said, "Bring him in. I'll check him." They had a doctor from New York come. They come here just like y'all come here. They come here to Franklin. So I didn't say nothing. So she asked me, she said, "What you going to be doing Sunday?" I said, "I'm about to take my wife to church and I go to church." She said, "If I want you to come take breakfast with me." I said, "I can't." She said, "What time you [indistinct 00:18:52] to church?" I said, "9:30, I'll be at the house."

Anderson Broussard: You know that makes you [indistinct 00:18:55] that van like that, so I drove right there. [indistinct 00:18:55] So she said, he told her, she said, "You like my old man." She said, "Yeah, that's the sweetest old man in the world." Just like that, she told my son. So she said, "If you were like your old man, you would be something." So she come there. My nephew got killed that very evening. You may have heard of him. A fellow come from California to Louisiana and got killed on 90. Right after Christmas.

Michele Mitchell: Oh no.

Anderson Broussard: Mm-hmm. My nephew come there [indistinct 00:20:02] We had took them to [indistinct 00:20:03] So I wasn't home. I went to see my nephew. My nephew had drove from California. He come here to spend Christmas. He had spent Christmas and went to go somewhere and was run down by a 18-wheeler. My brother from California was there then. We had took him out for dinner. [indistinct 00:20:46] We had took him out for dinner. So at the courthouse, so I used to sell all that. I used to have more equipment in the back there than what I got right here.

Michele Mitchell: Really? You had it back this way?

Anderson Broussard: In the back, back there over there. Same side, but I had more.

Michele Mitchell: That way?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, in the back, I had more than what I got there. I'd pick up five and six bushels. So they had a woman they called Lenaire. She was about your size. Lenaire. [indistinct 00:22:23] So we had had a party at the courthouse on the fourth floor. So a fellow, Ernest Bredlaw, I showed you where the Bredlaw lived, they lived in New [indistinct 00:22:25] on that side.

Michele Mitchell: No.

Anderson Broussard: So it's Bredlaw. So she really liked them chairs over there. So I was sitting down like you.

Michele Mitchell: [indistinct 00:22:32]

Anderson Broussard: She liked them chairs. She come in [indistinct 00:22:51] sitting down there. So she said, "Boy, when you was a [indistinct 00:23:00] kissed you like that, you would have been dead. They'd have killed you." I said, "Well, that's nothing [indistinct 00:23:09]" She wasn't [indistinct 00:23:13]

Michele Mitchell: Now what happened to your knee?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: When you were in the clinic, what happened to your knee?

Anderson Broussard: Well, my knees, I couldn't walk. They come [indistinct 00:23:24] I couldn't walk.

Michele Mitchell: Did you hurt yourself at the mine?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: Did you hurt yourself at work?

Anderson Broussard: No, I didn't get hurt. I got [indistinct 00:23:38] retired. My knees just start to— Arthritis took me and I couldn't get out the bed. My leg would hang out the bed, my daughter-in-law or either my wife would have to put my leg back in the bed. Boy, if I tried to move that leg, look like I tear my heart to pieces. Oh Lord, that crippling [indistinct 00:24:14] I couldn't walk. Lord have mercy. But I still thank God. The Lord have blessed me. To see all of those things and I'm yet able to do a little yet. When I was a judge, I didn't stay home like some of them fellows. I was always on the go, always going. I got my credential, where I went to law school and all that. I went through all of that.

Michele Mitchell: Really?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: Could you tell me about that? You went through all that stuff?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. I went to Baton Rouge about 12, 13 years.

Michele Mitchell: Are there other organizations that you want to tell me about? You said that you belonged to Masons?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. I been a Mason 50 years. I don't pay my dues.

Michele Mitchell: Do you want this on or off?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: On or off.

Anderson Broussard: You can put that on.

Michele Mitchell: Okay.

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, I been there for 50 years. Huh?

Michele Mitchell: Your house is on Georgetown Road?

Anderson Broussard: That's right.

Michele Mitchell: What's the number of the house?

Anderson Broussard: 109.

Michele Mitchell: Can I ask you a couple questions?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: Your wife's name?

Anderson Broussard: Florence Broussard.

Michele Mitchell: Florence?

Anderson Broussard: Florence. Florence, you want to give her your name?

Florence Broussard: For what?

Michele Mitchell: I just need your name and your birth date.

Florence Broussard: My birthday February the 3rd of 1924.

Michele Mitchell: Thank you, ma'am. Were you born here in Glencoe?

Florence Broussard: Uh-uh.

Michele Mitchell: Oh, you're from Four Corners?

Florence Broussard: [indistinct 00:26:38]

Michele Mitchell: Is that Saint Mary?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, that's Saint Mary Parish.

Michele Mitchell: In Saint Mary Parish?

Florence Broussard: Uh-huh. [indistinct 00:27:00]

Michele Mitchell: You said your wife worked?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: You said that your wife worked in the fields?

Anderson Broussard: She worked in the field time back.

Michele Mitchell: Way back?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: You've got children, right?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: What are your children's names?

Anderson Broussard: I got Anderson Jr. Deloris Ann Broussard. Rose Broussard. Merker Broussard. That's all. Four children.

Michele Mitchell: They all born here in—

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: Were they born in Franklin or Glencoe?

Anderson Broussard: Glencoe.

Michele Mitchell: Y'all got grandchildren too?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, I lost a grandson. Lost a grandson about a month ago. Dolores' baby boy died.

Michele Mitchell: That's horrible.

Anderson Broussard: He 29 years old.

Michele Mitchell: He was young.

Anderson Broussard: Mm-hmm.

Michele Mitchell: I'm so sorry to hear that.

Anderson Broussard: All the grandchildren— Latasha's the only girl I got. My only grandchild I got. Latasha. Florence, how many grandchildren we got?

Florence Broussard: Huh?

Anderson Broussard: How many grandchildren we got?

Florence Broussard: How many grandchildren? [indistinct 00:28:57] had seven grandchildren and one great-grand. No, wait a minute. Boy, I can't think right.

Michele Mitchell: Four?

Florence Broussard: I had more but [indistinct 00:29:12] and my other grandson [indistinct 00:29:19]

Michele Mitchell: Ten?

Florence Broussard: [indistinct 00:29:38]

Michele Mitchell: Okay.



Florence Broussard: [indistinct 00:29:53]

Anderson Broussard: That's my son right there.

Speaker 1: How you doing?

Michele Mitchell: Hello, nice to see you again, sir.

Speaker 1: Uh-huh. How you doing today?

Michele Mitchell: Pretty good. Pretty good.

Speaker 1: I see you didn't have no trouble finding your way back out here.

Michele Mitchell: Oh no.

Speaker 1: It's no big deal.

Michele Mitchell: Mm-mm. No, it was just straight to.

Speaker 1: Yeah, once you get on the four-lane, just come straight down.

Michele Mitchell: Yeah. It was easy. My concern was missing the turn-off to four-lane.

Speaker 1: Oh, okay. Well, all they had to do, just see Landry's Seafood and Steakhouse, that's your first landmark. When you get to the cross lane, hang right.

Michele Mitchell: Yep. Well, I'm glad to see you again.

Speaker 1: Uh-huh. How you guys coming along? Pretty interesting?

Michele Mitchell: Very. Very.

Speaker 1: Kind of makes you scratch your head, wondering how did he survive from all of that?

Michele Mitchell: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Black people went through hardship. We was victimized for no reason. A lot of Blacks don't want to relate to that, but truthfully speaking, you look at even in today's life, we being victimized still for no reason. Because you look at the White man, he's still be trying to change the game to stay on top. That's why it's so much hi-tech today. It's not so much that we need it. They feel their people can adapt and the Black people cannot. So that's why you have a whole lot of— If you sit down a person, a Black person that

experienced things, and just look at what is being handed down and handed out, really it's not in their favor, if you really look at it from my viewpoint.

Speaker 1: Because it's just like my job. When my job stop, I got to report to another foreman. Now you got a White guy, is driving the same type of forklift, doing the same work, but he don't have to report if his job stops. You see what I'm saying? The Black man going to forever have it hard, but it don't bother me for one reason. Like I said before, I know we been victimized, White people today is doing it in such a way that— I'm not prejudiced. That's the first words they holler, "I'm not prejudiced." But saying it and living it is two different things. We got a boss man, he can say he not prejudiced. You get off into the corner, you watch that sucker for five minutes, you want to hang him.

Michele Mitchell: [indistinct 00:32:57]

Speaker 1: And Black people mainly, I think, as being Black, we need to set our differences aside and come together because that's the only way we going to go anyhow. But I'm going to get on out of here, I got to— Did Mark call?

Florence Broussard: Where's Mark?

Michele Mitchell: You had two sisters, right?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: You had two sisters?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, I had two sisters. They dead. Annabelle and Caledonia.

Michele Mitchell: Caroline?

Anderson Broussard: Annabelle and Caledonia.

Michele Mitchell: Were you the oldest?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, I'm older than them.

Michele Mitchell: Do you remember about when they were born?

Anderson Broussard: Annabelle was born 1916, I believe. Annabelle was two years older than Callie.

Michele Mitchell: Your mother's name?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: Your mother's name?

Anderson Broussard: Rosa Brent.

Michele Mitchell: Rosa Brent?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, B-R-E-N-T.

Michele Mitchell: Was she born in Glencoe too?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: Do you know about when your mother was born?

Anderson Broussard: My mother?

Speaker 1: I'll see you guys later.

Michele Mitchell: Bye-bye.

Anderson Broussard: My mother was born 1888, March the 29th.

Michele Mitchell: How old was she when she passed?

Anderson Broussard: 75.

Michele Mitchell: Your mother, did she work out in the field? Did she—

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. She worked in the field. She worked in cooking and all a long time. Cooking for Mayor Machin.

Michele Mitchell: For Mayor Machin?

Anderson Broussard: Mayor Machin. She cooked for the Magrates too.

Michele Mitchell: Your father's name?

Anderson Broussard: Willie Broussard.

Michele Mitchell: Do you know when he was born?

Anderson Broussard: He's seven months older. He died in 1960.

Speaker 2: Antoine over here?

Florence Broussard: Who?

Speaker 2: Antoine.

Florence Broussard: Antoine.

Speaker 2: [indistinct 00:37:08] over here?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. I believe he was born— He died in 1960. He died [indistinct 00:37:13] like 1960. Surely when you [indistinct 00:37:20]

Michele Mitchell: Okay.

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: So he was born around 1888 too?

Anderson Broussard: '87.

Michele Mitchell: He was born 1887.

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. He was older— He was born in 1887.

Michele Mitchell: He was born in Glencoe?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: Did your father work in the field or did he ever mine?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, he worked in the field.

Michele Mitchell: Did he sharecrop?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: Did he sharecrop?

Anderson Broussard: No.

Michele Mitchell: Okay.

Anderson Broussard: You [indistinct 00:38:35] about older brother? Leon.

Michele Mitchell: No. Leon?

Anderson Broussard: Leon.

Michele Mitchell: He's older than you?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. Leon Broussard. He born September the 7th, 1909. He be 86 years old a year. He five years older than me. It's a boy and a girl dead in between us. He live in Los Angeles. He want me to come over there, but I can't go.

Michele Mitchell: Where did he move to?

Anderson Broussard: He live in Los Angeles.

Michele Mitchell: That's the brother that was in Los Angeles.

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: You were telling me about a brother in Los Angeles?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah.

Michele Mitchell: So you stayed out there from 1943 to 1945?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah. I went there and when his wife died, I believe his wife died in 1980, I believe. I stayed 20 days with him over there. He lost a daughter last year. [indistinct 00:40:05]

Michele Mitchell: Just last year?

Anderson Broussard: Yeah, his wife dead. She passed, Eloise. I always remember what year she passed, but I went to California and stayed there 20 days with him. He wanted me to come back with him, come [indistinct 00:40:26] with him this year, but I couldn't make it.

Michele Mitchell: You went to St. Peter's School?

Anderson Broussard: I went to St. Peter's School in Glencoe right here.

Michele Mitchell: How many years did you stay there?

Anderson Broussard: Huh?

Michele Mitchell: How many years did you stay there? How many years were you at St. Peter?

Anderson Broussard: St. Peter's School were in Glencoe.

Michele Mitchell: Were you there for a long time? Did you go to another school?

Anderson Broussard: No.

Michele Mitchell: I think I've asked you a lot of questions.

Anderson Broussard: That's all right.