

Oral History Tape Recording Release Agreement

I, Raymond E. Ringer hereby give and grant my tape recordings and their contents to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History Jacksonville State University, and authorize her to make them available for scholarly research purposes.

INTERVIEWEE Raymond E. Ringer ADDRESS P.O. Box 1 Valley Head, AL. 35989

INTERVIEWER Don Lee

DATE OF INTERVIEW 4/1/93

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

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SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR Raymond E. Ringer

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Raymond E. Ringer M/F Male

Address: P.O. Box 1 Valley Head, AL. 35989

Phone number(s): (205) 635-6250

Approximate age or date of birth: 1/4/24

Mother's Name: Mary Ruth Chudalm

Father's Name: Raymond J. Ringer

Places lived and when: Jacksonville, AL. Birmingham, Nashville, TN. Center, AL. St. Payne, AL. Valley Head, AL.

Education: EDUCATION, BS., M.S. AUBURN

Religion: Methodist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) Educator, Democrat Party President, AEA, Retired Teachers

Present occupation: Retired Teacher.

Former occupations: Teacher.

Special Skills: Photography, Radio operator, painting

Major Accomplishments: Teaching Guild, Pres. of Retired Teachers Assoc.

National Events in which interviewee has participated: Depression, WW II, Secretary of the South.

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: 3 terms on the Valley Head City Council.

National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/ No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: _____

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

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Father's Name: Raymond J. Ringer
Places lived and when: Jacksonville, AL, Birmingham, Nashville, TN,
Ceter, AL, St. Paul, AL, Valley Head, AL.
Education: EDUCATION, BS., M.S. AUBURN
Religion: Methodist
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) Educator,
Democrat Party President, AEA, Ethnic Teacher
Present occupation: Retired Teacher.
Former occupations: Teacher.
Special Skills: Photography, Radio operator, painter
Major Accomplishments: Teaching field, Pres. of Retired
Teachers Assoc.
National Events in which interviewee has participated: Depression,
WW II, Segregation with South.
Local Events in which interviewee has participated: 3 terms on the
Valley Head City Council.
National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No
Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____
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Outline:

Raymond E. Ringer by David Lee

1. Depression-

- A. Father loses their house, furniture, and the family forced to move in with his mothers' parents.
- B. His father was a teacher, could not find work, unemployed for two years. Did not have much, but did eat well.
- C. Movement of people from the City to the Rural areas for food. Radio used but limited because of lack of batteries.
- D. Remembers the Joe Lewis fight. No electricity, phone.
- E. No remembrance of the stock market crash.
- F. First dollar larger than the present dollar. Issued after the bank holiday.
- G. Programs remembered: NRA, WPA, AAA.
- H. His Uncle worked on a road crew for the WPA
- I. Tells of Roosevelt's voice and compares him to ministers.
- J. Says Roosevelt is a good leader, people look to him for help. Most of his programs were not good, but he tried.
- K. Many people giving up, shifting around, looking for work.
- L. Squatters and "Shaddie" towns pop up during the depression.
- M. Sharecropping gains strength in some areas, but most did not have the tools for sharecropping. Many people had gotten land form homesteading. Hard to rise above sharecropping because of financial problems and bad crops.
- N. Country stores become big and many people owe them.
- O. Felt the depression was beginning to be over in 1937, 38, 39. Felt some people were coming out of it then.
- P. Father moved to Valley Head and became a teacher.

- Q. His father also worked for a Roosevelt Agricultural program Measuring land. Felt the depression was almost over for his family.

World War II

- A. Mr. Ringer still in high school, hears very little about the European conflict, more about the domestic problems.
- B. Felt the war would be over very soon. Pearl Harbor bombed. He was listening to the Texaco Radio show when it happened.
- C. Drafted out of High School in 1943.
- D. Became a radio operator.
- E. Went to Japan and saw destruction of the many towns. Worst one seen was a place called Kolby.
- F. Home Front situation: Ration coupons for sugar, shoes, general food, and a shortage of rubber for his fathers tires.
- G. Many shortages on the home front, compares it to the depression

After the War:

- A. Went to college(Jacksonville State Univ.) became a teacher.
- B. Went on the G.I. Bill. They would not let become anything except a teacher because of the shortages.
- C. Dr. Stone got him a job after he got out.

Segregation in the South:

- A. Segregation was a way of life in the South.
- B. The further South you went, the more pronounced it Became.
- C. Schools segregated. The black children had to be sent Thirty miles to the nearest black school.
- D. Not much pronounced segregation, only at the train station.

- E. Valley Head the first school to segregate without court order.
- F. Collinsville the worst to segregate.
- G. Leon Roberts was over the schools at this time.

Klu Klux Klan

- A. In Collinsville mostly.
 - B. Mr. Ringer recalls only two crosses being burned. One was in a white mans yard that was cheating on his wife.
 - C. Sand Mountain had a sign up that said, "Nigger don't let the sun set on you."
 - D. !950's two Black men are chased off the mountain. One dies of a heart attack.