

KITCHELL: I was second.

JONES: Oh, yes. So you had to come back and...

KITCHELL: And go to work. They all got their degree except one child who died in infancy.

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE~~

Paul, his brother  
-----was going to Millsaps in summer school, stud<sup>y</sup>ing to be a doctor, and he drowned in the lake out at.....

KITCHELL: Livingston,-----

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE~~

Livingston Park.-----

KITCHELL: Livingston, <sup>Park in Jackson.</sup>-----

~~VOICE: -----~~

~~KITCHELL: Right, in Jackson.~~

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE~~

He was stud<sup>y</sup>ing to be a doctor.

JONES: Gosh!

KITCHELL: He was taking summer course in French.

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

JONES: How many of your brothers and sisters remained in Greenwood?

KITCHELL: None. Just one son. <sup>The</sup> Rest of them have all dispersed.

JONES: <sup>That's your children?</sup>  
~~You got a bunch of children.~~

KITCHELL: What?

JONES: You're talking about your children?

KITCHELL: Brothers and sisters too....

JONES: Brothers and sisters too? So, you all are  
<sup>^</sup>  
just about the only Kitchell's besides Horace Junior that are....

KITCHELL: That's right.

JONES: Still in Greenwood. The machine shop, does  
it still service plantation <sup>S'</sup>  
<sup>^</sup> on a large scale?

KITCHELL: Oh, yes, yes. If they need anything, if we  
<sup>^</sup>  
can be of service to them, well, we still  
<sup>^</sup>  
service them. Lot of them we have serviced

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

for two or three generations, and a lot of them have their own shops now and don't need the services of a public shop.

Mrs. Kitchell  
VOICE:

wrought iron

Don't forget the beautiful ----- that Charles does.

KITCHELL:

Yes, we do a lot of very beautiful <sup>wrought iron</sup> I can take you round over town, you can drive round <sup>a lot of it</sup> over in town, and ----- is very beautiful. People, well, they admire <sup>it</sup> ~~them~~ very much.

JONES:

I see. How many employees does the machine shop have?

KITCHELL:

Well, <sup>it</sup> doesn't take too many employees. In other words, you can have twelve, thirteen, fourteen skilled men and that's all you need. You can take twelve or thirteen skilled men and you've got all the employees that you actually need.

JONES:

Yes, that's true. Let me ask you this, during the time of the depression, was the machine shop hit very hard?

KITCHELL:

Oh, yes, <sup>^</sup> just like everybody else. Yes, you

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

can take our books and go back through the years and get a pretty idea<sup>of</sup> what the good years were, and what the lean years were.

JONES: Right.

KITCHELL: You can almost tell exactly what a good year was and what a lean year was.

JONES: You mean in the fields?

KITCHELL: What?<sup>?</sup>  
^

JONES: You mean a good <sup>planting</sup>~~planning~~ year was and was....

KITCHELL: That's right.

JONES: Yes, I'm sure you can. You must have been one of the lucky ones who was too young for the first world war and too old for the second?

KITCHELL: Yes, that's true. When the first world war was over, I was in the SATC.

JONES: What's that?

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

KITCHELL: Just before you were old enough to be inducted.

JONES: Oh, yes, like ROTC?

KITCHELL: Yes, I was sixteen when the war was over.

JONES: And did you ever have any active military service?

KITCHELL: None whatsoever. I had all the training.

JONES: Yes, in college?

KITCHELL: I was in college and had all of the training.

JONES: Yes.

KITCHELL: But that was ~~all~~ the extent of it.

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

Don't forget you operated in two trade schools.

KITCHELL: Yes, after the second world war, I operated two trade schools.

JONES: For veterans?

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

KITCHELL: What?

JONES: For veterans?

KITCHELL: Yes, for veterans. I had something over a thousand students, ~~and~~ <sup>And</sup> they were appointed to by the Department of Education as sort of as model schools.

JONES: And was that your first involvement in education?

KITCHELL: No, I been on the school board here before <sup>at that time</sup> then and chairman of the school board ~~---~~.

JONES: I was going to ask you that. At that time you were chairman of the school board right after the war.

KITCHELL: I was chairman of the school board during the war.

JONES: Yes. What were the years of your tenure as chairman?

KITCHELL: I don't know exactly. It was along about

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

1948, 1949 or 1950

~~forty eight, forty-nine, fifty.~~

JONES: But you had said that you were chairman of the school board here in Greenwood .....

KITCHELL: That's right.

JONES: When they passed the Brown verses the ~~Big~~ Topeka Board of Education.

KITCHELL: That's right.

JONES: I see. Do you remember anything about how that was received by the community?

KITCHELL: It was hard for them to believe.

JONES: Was there any federal pressure on you and your school board to desegregate?

KITCHELL: Well, of course it's been so many years ago, and of course they begin to apply pressure right away. It was done gradually. I think it was handled about as well as it could be handled. But, it's been a constant pressure by the Negroes.

NOTICE  
This material is  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

MDAH

JONES: Yes.

KITCHELL: Right straight from the very beginning, it's been a constant pressure.

JONES: I was just thinking you would probably be in a position as chairman of the school board to feel both sides of the pressure, probably more than anybody else would, I think <sup>that</sup> is interesting, ~~An~~ interesting period of time, <sup>those</sup> ~~that the~~ first years of the desegregation movement. Mrs. Kitchell can answer this question as well. Traditionally is the attitude in Greenwood been one that was resisting desegregation and that type of thing? Did you all have a hard time here during the period of desegregation?

KITCHELL: I don't think it would be too hard. What would you say, Lynn?

Mrs. Kitchell

~~VOICE:~~

I really think that it was accepted as well as could be expected. There were never any Riots I think maybe ~~raids~~. <sup>One</sup> or two raids was at the most we ever had. I think it was <sup>VERY</sup> well taken care of.

KITCHELL: It was <sup>handled.</sup> ~~and~~

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

MDAH

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

We still had the problems.

JONES:

Yes.

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

Very definite problems.

JONES:

Of what sort? In the schools?

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

No, <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ teacher particularly <sup>It</sup> is still in courts.

JONES:

I know <sup>that's</sup> ~~it's like~~ a delicate issue. I was just interested in your view point of it. Seeing <sup>as</sup> how you were the chairman of the school committee that during that year. It must have been a

~~KITCHELL:~~ Yes. ←

~~JONES:~~

Highly pressurized time.

KITCHELL:

I think they were trying to press the <sup>thing</sup> ~~think~~ forward at a time when we were <sup>n't</sup> quite ready for it. I think they would have accomplished more if they had let the <sup>thing</sup> ~~think~~ kind of taken a more gentle issue.

NOTICE  
This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH



tell them to build their own.

JONES: Yes. Wonder if Delta Machine Works will stay in your family? Do you all have any grandchildren who are interested in carrying on the work there?

KITCHELL: I don't think so.

JONES: Don't think so?

KITCHELL: No.

JONES: Are any of your grandchildren here in Greenwood, living? I guess you have to.....

KITCHELL: <sup>HORACE</sup>  
~~Mark~~ has one son, but I don't think he's interested.

JONES: What do you think will eventually happen to the Machine Works?

KITCHELL: Oh, I think it will be sold and parcelled out.

JONES: And then what will happen to the lathe, I wonder.

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

MDAH

KITCHELL: I'd like to see it given to the State Department of Archives, but it would be tremendous for you all to move it.

JONES: It's really that big? I mean it....

KITCHELL: Yes.

JONES: Right. It would take another Star of the West to get it out of here.

KITCHELL: Well, it <sup>would</sup> take a good size transport.

JONES: Right. Well, I'd like for you to take me over there to the shop....

KITCHELL: Whenever you get ready to go, <sup>we'll</sup> ~~I will~~ go.....

JONES: Okay. And, [I] appreciate you talking to me on the tape. [I] appreciate the lunch and everything, having me in your house.

KITCHELL: Well, I've been delighted to be.....

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

Cottonlandia  
Have you been out to ~~sub~~ ?

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

JONES: No, I haven't.

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

You will have to do that sometime  
You missed something. ~~That was good.~~

JONES: I'd like to.

KITCHELL: If you've got.....

Mrs. Kitchell  
~~VOICE:~~

-----  
They've got that museum there.

KITCHELL: If you've got time, after we've been to the  
machine shop, I'd be happy to take you over  
there.

JONES: Okay. Maybe we can do it.

END OF TAPE

NOTICE  
This material may be  
protected by copyright  
law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

MDAH