

CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES:

When we lived at Dio Mission we used to go fishing for crawdads and we'd sit on the bank. About from here to 150 yards from the house, the bank along side of the tank you know. We'd sit up there and we'd fish and we'd throw it in the tank and we'd pull out a crawdad and we'd fill our bucket up with crawdads and we'd go feed them to the ants. And they be going back and forth on that bed, you know, just laugh you know, and think it was funny. You know, them broom weeds, I used to--they used to grow all through that place back there and I had rag dolls that I be playing and I have a little fish can, you know, sardine can, I'd sit my rag dolls in there and I'd be dragging it between them broom weeds. And I'd have a little tent maybe or something to play with my rag dolls. I had a basket full of rag dolls, and then I had a cradle and I didn't have no doll for it. I had a Nigger doll and part white, you know, it was back to back. I had that in there. And I'd play. Christmas, you know, my mother she would buy all of my friends baby buggies. You know, you fold them up. She'd buy each one that kind, and she'd buy about nine. And she'd give them all to my friends. And we'd all have a baby buggy. And that was Christmas and the old folks they would have a big pot, you know, like these wash pots, they'd fill that with meat and boil it. And all the campers that was camping would get a bowl full out and take it to their camps and they'd all eat. Sure have a nice time at Christmas at Big camps. And then from there at my school age, about seven years old, we had to move to Yellow Mission. My grandmother took me there and we lived--we bought--we just stayed in a tent you know. It had a floor in it. And around it there was a wind break. You know these broom weeds, they were tall and my grandmother would cut them and stand them for windbreak around the tent, you know, put logs on there and everything and it nice wind break. Would play in there