

job and I was going to... Well, when I got out of the service, I didn't stay around very long. I went to Guthrie, and in Guthrie there was about two families that was Indians, all the rest of them was non-Indians. I got involved in there where there was no Indians at all. And then I got acquainted with my boss and his brother and all the other different people around there, the white people, and I begun to go to meetings, they asked me to go to meetings with them. Like I say there was no Indians down there, there was Indians in Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Geary, Kingfisher, Cushing, none in Guthrie. I got involved in going with these people...

(What it seems like you're trying to say, and I'd like for you to say it rather than me, what factors do you think made it possible for you to mix in like this and feel at ease with all the white people?)

This is a point I'll never forget, during the time I was in the service, we was having a big inspection. 'Course I had my platoon then, I had forty-two men, who, like I say, were high school graduates, college graduates, and here I am leading them, with a 9th grade education. But the experience that I got being a soldier, learning how to lead men, and I always thought this, here's a guy that's in college, some two, three years in college, and here I was leading, training them, in army life. One time, we was having inspection and this was the first time I was platoon sergeant. I went over and I asked my C.O. what I had to do or what would he ask me if the colonel comes by. He said, "Howard," he said, "sit down, I want to talk to you. You're my platoon sergeant. I'm your Company Commander, so whatever your men do in your outfit, you will always get the chewing out for it," he said. "Of course you'll turn around and chew them out for it. If something happens to your platoon, I'll get chewing out for it.