

9-25-2008

Interview no. 1599

Dolores Atkins

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Interview with Dolores Atkins by Julie Wise, 2008, "Interview no. 1599," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Dolores Atkins

Interviewer: Julie Wise

Project: Bracero Oral History Project

Location: Parkin, Arkansas

Date of Interview: September 25, 2008

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1599

Transcriber / Summary: Mayra L. Avila

Dolores Atkins was born in Parkin, Arkansas in 1948; her family were sharecroppers that would only get a small percent of their work; she began picking cotton at the age of 3; she recalls that Parkin was a farm community and everyone worked in the fields; her parents encouraged her and her six siblings to get an education, but states that no one went to school during picking season; she explains that on Saturday families would take their children to pick cotton and would get to keep what they earned; she details the segregation in town, explaining how they ordered food from a service window marked blacks; she remembers that everyone stuck with their own race; consequently, Mexicans only came into town for liquor and food, then returned to their barracks; she remembers finding Spanish amusing to hear; she never worked alongside a Mexican worker because they kept them segregated.

Length of interview 22 minutes

Length of Transcript n/a