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**4700.2551 Tape 4486**  
**Session I**  
**July 14, 2015**

**[Begin Tape 4486. Begin Session I.]**

**CHARLOTTE WILLCOX:** Okay, so testing.

**CHELSEA ARSENEAULT:** Hey.

**WILLCOX:** Can you both say your names?

**ARSENEAULT:** Chelsea.

**CAROLYN RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Carolyn.

**WILLCOX:** Okay. Sounds good. So, Chelsea, you can go ahead and do your introduction and we can start.

**ARSENEAULT:** [00:15] Okay. Alrighty. Today is July fourteenth, 2015. I'm Chelsea Arseneault with the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History with LSU Libraries, and I'm here today with Ms. Carolyn Rigmaiden-Frank to talk about your memories of Mossville, Louisiana as part of the project conducted in conjunction with the Imperial Calcasieu Museum to document the history of Mossville. And we are at the Rigmaiden Center today, which is named after your father?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** Named after your father. The Jacob Rigmaiden center. And I just want to thank you for your time and for sitting down with us and sharing all your memories. We're going to start with some background information to just kind of get a handle on who you are and then get deeper into the questions, if that's okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [00:52] Yeah, okay.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay. So when and where were you born?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, I was born at Saint Patrick's Hospital, but I've lived here in Mossville . . . well I lived here twenty years, from the time I was born until I was twenty years old, I left. And it was always . . . I always thought that I would come back and live here, but just circumstances and everything. I was most of the time right there in Lake Charles [Louisiana], so I was still close and could still come back and visit. But Mossville is a place that . . . small. I mean, growing up we knew, everybody knew everybody. We all played together, had fun and . . . A lot of things changed, even between my time of growing up and my children's time of growing up. The things that . . . The toys that we had, the things that we played. It was just different, and when I tell them that, "Oh, we didn't do this, we didn't have this," they just can't see the things that we did. A lot of our . . . the games and things we did, it was . . . we made up things, and played and did. So it was a lot of things. I loved it here and so did my siblings. So, it's just . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** What were your parents' names?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [02:42] Jacob Rigmaiden, and my mother came from Branch, Louisiana. Alice Lyons.

**ARSENEAULT:** Alice Lyons? L-Y. . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** L-Y-O-N-S.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay. Got you. And your grandparents?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Henry Rigmaiden and Ida Dunkins. She was from Merryville, Louisiana, and my grandfather was here from Mossville. When the Rigmaidens came here in the 1800s, and they. . . I think they came from England, is where it was original started, and so they. . . I don't know how they ended up here in Mossville, but they did and it just . . . a lot of us just stayed.

**ARSENEAULT:** So both sides of the family grew up in Mossville?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, just my father's side and his father, and his father was here in Mossville. My grandmother was from Merryville, Louisiana, which is close to the Texas state line.

**ARSENEAULT:** So how did they meet?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I don't know, [Laughs] I don't know. It wasn't very much talked about at my house with past things, so it's a lot that I don't know. My older sisters and brothers probably did, but it's a lot that I didn't know. I know that my Uncle Josh was a minister, and he would. . . I think he had churches down in Branch and all this little . . . what we call down east, and it was this lady that he knew that wasn't married, and he had picked out somebody for her, and Daddy said that he wanted to marry her. He wanted to meet her. I mean, they had never met. So, Uncle Josh took him to Branch, and he saw Mama once, and the next time they married.

**ARSENEAULT:** How old were they?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** She was twenty, and he was twenty-five. And they moved back here and lived here.

**ARSENEAULT:** [05:24] I was going to ask you when your family moved here, but it sounds like . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [laughs] Yeah. Well, Dad had been here, but Mama came in 1930 when they got married.

**ARSENEAULT:** Where were your grandparents employed?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I don't know. I don't really know what they did. But my father was . . . he worked at Firestone, the plant . . . Firestone tire and rubber. And my mother was a housewife.

**ARSENEAULT:** [06:03] How long did he work at Firestone?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh, twenty-five years. He retired from there.

**ARSENEAULT:** And what kind of plant was it?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Firestone tire and rubber.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, it was a rubber plant?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** Did he ever talk about work or anything like that?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Not too much. I remember one time when they had a strike, and they were wanting the people to stay and work, whatever. And it was only. . . I think it was about six of them that stayed, and they said that . . . I guess the management was saying that, "Oh, gee. These the ones that stay, the ones that don't want to work, don't work, can't work, sick." And so that was the ones that stayed in the plant, and everybody else left. And I know that my father,

too, was a minister, and he wanted to leave out of the plant to go to his churches. So one time when he was leaving out, the picketers shook the car and was really angry with them. But, you know, nothing happened to him. But that was one of the things that they always talked about was that strike.

**ARSENEAULT:** Were they just striking for union?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** So where was your dad a minister?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [07:35] Mostly his churches was in Texas, but he was ordained over here. He was over here at the Christ Sanctified Holy Church Morning Star. Because we had just the three churches when I was growing up. We had the Mount Zion Baptist Church and Saint Paul Methodist Church, and then we had the Morning Star Christ Sanctified Holy Church

**ARSENEAULT:** So what was it like being the child of a pastor?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh, [Laughs] that was . . . Well, when I was younger it just didn't bother me. The thing of it was, I guess, because my father became a minister in 1945, and that was when the sister before me was born, so he was always a minister. That's what we knew him as, whereas the others didn't. And they could talk about when he was drinking and doing all sorts of things, but we've never been able to see him like that. But the thing of it was, we had to go to

church all the time. And you had to be in church all day. It wasn't like other kids. They didn't have to go sometimes, but we had to be there. I don't know . . . it was just different. Especially when I got to be a teenager it was really hard because it was certain things I couldn't do, or they didn't want me to do. So it was a little hard, the older I got. But, you just learn to accept that and to know that this was . . . even though it was his calling, but yet and still the family still have to live the way that he live, mostly. Because we knowing that everybody's looking at him, and in turn of looking at him and what he's doing, then they looking at us, also. So it was hard when we were . . . when we got to be teenagers and things because it was things that you wanted to do, and sometimes you couldn't.

**ARSENEAULT:** [10:02] Like what?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, like go to certain dances. They used to always have hay rides during the summer time, and all the kids would go. I couldn't go. When Halloween, was . . . Oh! I never went trick-or-treating, and that was . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Why not?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, because Dad didn't believe in that. They didn't believe in that holiday, that day. And so we never could go trick-or-treating. And that was the one thing that I wanted my children to experience, and because they always say, "Well, why you never did go?" I say, "Because we couldn't!" And so I really felt like I missed something, and I probably didn't, but even though like now my granddaughter, her father is a minister and so I tell him,

“Let her experience things, because if you don’t then you never know what happens.” So that was one of the things that I didn’t like, because all my friends, they would come back the next to school. And they’d have all their candy and talk about what they did. And it was just good to hear them say that, but then I didn’t like it because I hadn’t experienced it. I didn’t know how it felt to do those things.

**ARSENEAULT:** Did you get to go to the canteens?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [11:40] Yeah, I did. I got to go there because it was a time limit and . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, like a curfew?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah, and if it was on . . . And a lot times, I couldn't go when it was on Sunday if it was open and the kids would go on Sundays, and a lot of times I couldn't go because I was at church. So everything was limited to what we can do.

**ARSENEAULT:** What does your dad think about the Paradise Club?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, you know, he used to be out there in the world before he became a minister, and so I would think some of the people, he knew. This was just things that they did, so he would still talk to them and everything. They were still friends, and so whether he would think anything about how they were living their life, he still knew that that was his



background, too. So he was able to talk to them and they just still was able to communicate and do things. This was just things that he didn't do anymore. He didn't down anybody for what they did, and he would help everybody. That was one of the things that I really liked about him and saw in him as to how, if anybody would come and need any type of assistance or anything, he was there to help. Even with the voting . . . he wasn't really into politics, but he would talk to the politicians and see who was best, that would best serve Mossville and the people, and he would get this out to the people.

[13:58] I can remember when they used to have the cars, and they would pay these people twenty-five dollars for driving people to the polls and everything that didn't have cars. And I always wanted to do that because I would see people . . . I mean, you might take one family there, you know. Hey, you would've made twenty-five dollars. But he never would let the girls do that. Not his daughters. We couldn't get into any of this or anything. Now my brother did, you know, but we didn't. And if somebody would come and he had ran out of the money for paying for people to drive, well then he would call somebody else and see if they could give them money so that he could make sure that everybody that needed to would be able to drive. So he did a lot for the community, and I really thanked him and I know that they appreciated him, because they put his name on this building. They wouldn't have done that other than that if he didn't work diligent and everything for them.

**ARSENEAULT:** Had he always been involved in politics?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [15:17] As long as I can remember, yes. And it had gotten bad at one time that we had to have police to sit at the house. Somebody had threatened him and it was

for until after the election. They had police parked near the home to watch . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** What election was it?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [15:44] [Pardon]?

**ARSENEAULT:** Do you remember what election it was?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, I don't remember what it was. It probably was the sheriff [laughs]. That's what I'm thinking, that it may have been the sheriff's election. But that was the only time that I know of that it really got bad. That things had gotten that bad with an election . . . especially out here. But you know people, they want the vote. So, you know, they want to get in office so . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Do you remember what it was about?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, Daddy really didn't tell us. And really we didn't know, if we wouldn't have seen this man parked by the house all the time, wondering why this person parked out there. And then he said, "Well he's just watching the house." And that's as far as he would tell us.

**ARSENEAULT:** Was he ever threatened or anything?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah, he was threatened then. That was why they were there.  
Yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** Guess when you put your neck out there . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah. Because, you know, and then he would have all of the people here would vote for whoever he would tell them, and because they trusted him and they believed and they knew that he was doing that for their benefit and so the other people, I guess they felt that that was a threat for them, for the people out here, even though where at that time it had gotten to be more people out here. We had got all these subdivision—Bel Air, Lincoln Heights, and all that. They all was here. So it got to be quite a bit of people here. Not like in the beginning when it was just . . . I'll just say us few [Laughs]. But you know, it was so . . . [many more now].

**ARSENEAULT:** When did it start getting bigger?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [18:03] Around the time when they built the new school in fifty . . . Let's see, they opened the school in [nineteen] fifty-four [Frank clarifies it was fifty-five]. So it was sometimes around that time when people started moving in. Because our school was right here in this lot and I was . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** The original school?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [18:25] Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** Or the new school?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** The original. Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, okay. What do you remember about that?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** That was . . . Well, I started in the first grade, and here we didn't have kindergarten or anything then. And we had the three little buildings, wooden buildings. One was real, real big, and that one they had a partition in between. It had the first and second grade part of the partition. The other part was the third and fourth grade. And then it had the little building next door. That was fifth and sixth grade. It went up to the sixth grade then. And then it had the cafeteria. So that's . . . And I had . . . They opened up the new school, where Mossville High, in 1954 [1955], and I had the same teacher first, second, and third grade [Laughs]. I followed her, or she followed me . . . whatever it was. Because she taught the first and second grade, and then the third grade was what she taught, and so I had her all three years.

**ARSENEAULT:** Do you have any favorite teachers you remember?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [19:40] Well, she was one of them. Ms. Billups[?]. And we had. . . That was in high school. Well, in junior high, yeah, that was a little different because you had more than one teacher. And in high school, Mrs. Rogers was a good teacher.

**ARSENEAULT:** [20:07] Was she your English teacher?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah. I think y'all interviewed her?

**ARSENEAULT:** She's on the list.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [20:14] Yeah okay, yeah. I know my nephew liked that . . . Well, she used to be Ms. Calvin. She's Ms. Guidry now. Well, he really liked her. And when he graduated . . . He went to kindergarten, and when he graduated kindergarten he thought he was through with school, and he said "Oh, I finished!" He said "I graduated!" And I said "No, you still got twelve years to go." But we had really good teachers. Most of them, when we did the new school, most of the teachers came from different areas of Louisiana, and most of them that was their first job. The thing of it is that they were very concerned about the students, our education. They really wanted us to go far in life. They really made a point to teach. It's not like it is today where the teachers, some of them [don't care] . . . and you've got some great teachers. But then you have some that is lax, you know. They could care less about the children. But all of ours were . . . I mean, they cared about the children. And that was the one thing, as getting older, that I realize and that I really appreciate all of them for all the time and the concerns that they took with us, so it was. . .

We had a very, very good educational setup. I mean, even though I know the kids in Lake Charles just always say we was from the country. . . But we could stand with them with anything, you know [Laughs]. A lot of times they would come and . . . well, they wouldn't come but the teachers, some of our teachers were in organizations, the Delta's and all this different

stuff so we were all included, and we would have to go to [Boston] . . . you know, we would have cotillions and all this different things, so it was good. High school was good for me. I really enjoyed it. I was on the honor roll. Honor student. And I was a majorette, and . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** What is that?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Pardon]?

**ARSENEAULT:** What's a majorette?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [23:00] Well, [Laughs] it's the ones that dance at the . . . at the games and everything [at half time]. I don't know what they call them now.

**ARSENEAULT:** Not a cheerleader?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, no. It wasn't cheerleader.

**ARSENEAULT:** Like a spirit leader or something?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Maybe so. [laughs] Yeah, but . . . Yeah, they don't really have majorettes like they used . . . They still have . . . I guess they call them like a dance line or something that's there with the band and everything, but, yeah. And so high school . . . We just had our fiftieth class reunion in May. So we had it here, and it was good seeing people because a

lot of them I hadn't seen in years, so it was good to see them and talk to [them] . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** What was that like?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** It was fun. At first I said, "I don't know if I'm going to that." But then I said "Yeah, I'm going to go." So it was just good. It was just really good to see the people. And the ones that weren't here I really missed because some of them I really wanted to see, and they weren't here, but it was good with the ones talking and talking about your family and showing pictures and all of that. It was just . . . It was a good . . . I guess [I had] a real nice time.

**ARSENEAULT:** [24:31] We've been trying to figure out like the geographic boundaries of Mossville. It seems like everyone has a different idea.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Laughs] Oh . . . I guess to me . . . Let me see. For the east, we go . . . I guess where . . . I guess the tracks where the plant is. Where Conoco was. I don't know . . . What's the name of it now? The Conoco VCM?

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, Sasol?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I guess that was about where it ended there. That street that divides off the houses . . . Well, Bel Air was Bel Air then, and then the plant started. That's what I think it is from the east. And to the west, I think to me it went all the way to . . . well, I guess right now where . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Coach Williams Road?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** LaSalle Williams Road, yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** [25:47] That's what we were thinking, too.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** Was Mossville ever incorporated?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [25:53] I don't know. Well, I guess it was. We had a post office, so I guess it was at one time. I'm not quite sure the post office burned or if it was in a storm. And once it . . . Once they lost it, they just never did rebuild it.

**ARSENEAULT:** Where was the post office?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I don't know. That was way before my time [Laughs].

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I mean, I heard them talk about it, but I never did know exactly where it was.



**ARSENEAULT:** What would they say about it?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** They would just tell us that they had a post office. They were trying to tell us the things that we did have here. You know, we had a couple of grocery stores and other than that we didn't have very much

**ARSENEAULT:** What were the grocery stores?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Uncle Josh had one. It was down at the corner where Prater Road meets Old Spanish Trail. And then Uncle Ira Garrett had one right here at the railroad tracks. Right over there.

**ARSENEAULT:** What would they sell?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [27:06] They would sell everything. Well, grocery-wise. They would sell everything and well . . . a lot of times, we would go to and do our shopping over in Westlake [Louisiana], where they had Broussard's, which was at one time Piggly Wiggly, and that's where we would get our main groceries. And then we would go to the others if we needed something. Bread, milk, whatever, during the week. But used to go once a week and get groceries.

**ARSENEAULT:** Did you grow anything? Does your family?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** My mother had a garden because she liked okra, and she would grow okra and peas. Things that she liked is what she would mainly grow. We did have . . . It wasn't a real big garden or anything. And before my time, they had animals. They would kill hogs and [chickens] . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** [28:28] Your mom and dad?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah. And they had chickens. Oh, I remember the chickens, but . . . [Laughs] They still had chickens when I came along, but I think they had gotten rid of all the other stuff. I don't remember any of them, but they talked about it that they had that.

**ARSENEAULT:** What do you remember about the chickens? You laughed when you said it.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh, because we had to go feed the chickens. And they had a coop, a building. The little . . . that they called a coop. And you had to make sure that they were in there at night. Sometimes it was hard gathering them up to make sure they were in there. And then the feeding, they were all over you, trying to get to the food. You had little trays for them where you put their food. And there were times when they would kill a chicken and everything. I remember one time when my mother had died and Daddy wanted to teach me to do that. I said "Oh I can't do that, I can't kill a chicken!" [Laughs] So he killed it, then he had me to clean it and scald it with water, and you had to pick the feathers off, so. . . [Laughs] Oh, that was my first experience with doing that. And my last. Oh well.

**ARSENEAULT:** [29:49] He didn't make you keep doing it?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, no, no. I guess I wasn't too good at it, so . . . [Laughs] But those were just things that we did. I remember when we were little, we had. Well, we weren't little, little. But we were coming up and we used to have a rope tied in a tree at my cousin's house next door. We would all go over there, and we would run and catch the rope and swing. And one time my sister, she missed the rope and fell on her arm and broke her arm, and so then we all . . . It was a group of us. I say about ten to fifteen of us that would do that. We would do that every day. So when she broke her arm, well we didn't know what it was, but her arm was dented in. So we all was just trailing behind her, going to the house to tell them that she was hurt. And I remember they took her to the hospital and she came back, she had the cast on her arm. And the thing that I remember mostly about that was because all the parents was there with the children waiting to see what had happened, what was wrong, and everything. I think about that because I think about how these days, people sue for everything. And it wasn't none of that. Nothing like that. And the rope came down though, but it was just still how good everybody was so concerned. But that was because of the closeness of the people.

[31:48] It brings to my memory these days when people tell me it takes a community to raise a child. And that's what that was like. Anybody in the community could chastise you. They didn't have to call your parents and tell you. They would chastise you at the point, and then you go home and you would get another scolding. But it was just . . . We were just such a close-knit community that really it just seemed like we didn't like it when all these other people start moving in because you didn't know anybody. Because before this, I mean, you could leave your doors open at night. You just wasn't concerned because you knew nothing was going to happen.

But then after people started moving in, then you had to start being careful. And it really changed the way. . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Was that in the fifties?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [32:59] Huh? Oh, yeah. Yeah. That's the forties, fifties. Well, thirties really. Yeah. So it was . . . Things change, you know. People want to advance. They want new things to happen so Mossville wouldn't get left behind. That's what happened. And it just . . . We just had to adjust. Because when the new school . . . When Mossville High School was built, the high school children from Sulphur [Louisiana], Vinton [Louisiana], and Westlake [Louisiana] would come here. So we had to deal with knowing everybody at school to not knowing everybody anymore, and then we had to deal with high school kids and everything, even though we were going . . . We started as elementary. So it was just a different atmosphere for us, but I feel that we adjusted well, and we did the things the others schools did, and . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Why did the kids from Vinton and Sulphur have to come here?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** They didn't have a high school.

**ARSENEAULT:** Why not?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [34:23] That was just the way it was then.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Agrees] You see, once the children from here . . . Before we had the high school, they went to . . . I think they went to Westlake for a couple of years, and then if they wanted to go to high school, they had to go to Lake Charles. Well, I'm saying Lake Charles. Boston. But it was Boston High School at that time. And I think a lot of them went to Second Ward Colored School in order to get a higher education. And I know that when my sister and brothers went to Boston, they had to give my cousin's address because you had to live in the city in order to go to that school. So it was sort of hard. And they had to get transportation for your children to go over there and so it was sort of hard. And then the parents worked hard to get us a school here. And so it was because of their work and talking with the school board and everything. That's how the school became . . . Got here. Because I guess it was like a center. From Westlake and then Sulphur and Vinton, and even the children from Houston River, way back behind Evergreen Drive. Way back there. All them came here, too. So it was, I guess, like more of a geographic location as to why they built it here.

**ARSENEAULT:** [36:17] What do you remember about integration?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I can remember going to. . . [Laughs] I don't know why I want to say Walgreen's . . . Woolworth's, and not being able to eat at the counter. But of course, by us living over here, we never did really go to Lake Charles that much. We only really went to . . . if we needed to buy something. Other than that, we did everything over here. Westlake had stores, clothing stores. If you didn't want to go all the way to Lake Charles and . . . So a lot of things . . .

I can remember going to Lake Charles as I got older. A teenager. And I started sewing, so I would go over there. But we had a fabric place right here in Westlake that we would go to and buy fabric and stuff. I wasn't really. . . We weren't really involved that much in the integration part because . . . I guess because we were happy where we were. [Laughs] I mean, it was a good thing in a way, but the . . .

As far as for . . . I don't know. I just feel like the combining of the schools and all that, I think that the colored children, the black children, has really been left out in a lot of it, as to the point that they keep on closing our schools, even today. So, I know when my children went, my daughter was . . . She graduated from Lake Charles High, because we were in the area where she could go to Lake Charles High. And my son, he graduated from Lake Charles Boston. So they had changed over and he was the last class at Boston High, and the first at Lake Charles Boston. So they, you know . . . they got good educations, and I know a lot of people didn't want their children going to Lake Charles Boston.

[39:23] A lot of the black people would send their children to Barbe, LaGrange and all these other schools, because they felt that they would get a better education, but my granddaughter went to Lake Charles Boston, and we was very proud. Still is, I'm . . . Still is very proud of her. She graduated from Lake Charles Boston, from Grambling State University. While she was at Grambling, she did internship with State Farm in Bloomington, Illinois. And when she graduated, she got a job there. And then she stayed there a couple of years, and then she moved to Texas. She got married and she's still over in Houston. She's had very good jobs.

And one thing I remember about when she was at Lake Charles Boston, she wanted to take a higher math class, and they didn't offer that. So she would have to go to LaGrange or Barbe in order to take this class. And so she . . . They got her in at LaGrange, and she would

drive there. She had to have her own transportation. It's not like now, the school board have busses with one child on it. But she had to have her own transportation. So she drove there for that hour or so, and she remembered that because she told us that the thing . . . The teacher, he . . . When she first went, he didn't know why she was coming there, because she would be behind all of this students.

**ARSENEAULT:** Why would he say that?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [41:27] Well, because she was coming from Lake Charles Boston, he figured that she, you know, didn't know that much.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh. I don't know anything about that school. Is it . . . What is it? Is it just because it's in Lake Charles?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** What?

**ARSENEAULT:** Lake Charles Boston.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes, well that was Lake Charles High School.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes. And then it changed to . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** And then it changed . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes, when they integrated, it changed to Lake Charles Boston.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Because that was the two schools that combined.

**ARSENEAULT:** So they changed the name when they integrated.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [41:57] Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** And so, her teacher . . . the teacher told her that. That, like . . . he didn't know why she was coming because she was going to be behind all of his students, and that she was going to really have to work hard if she wanted to catch up and pass that class. And so, when class ended, she say he called her in, and he told that, you know, that she was his best student. She . . . And I guess he felt bad for what he had said, and . . . Because she say when he told her that she told, "Oh, you wait and see." And I say you know, some students would have not went. They would have quit. They would have felt that . . . "Okay, so you feel that way. That I don't know enough," but I was going to add that she stayed because that was something that she wanted to do, and all of her jobs and everything has been in accounting, and she's doing very



well. But it just shows sometimes . . . you know, you don't know what a person know. So . . . they have had . . . I really thank God for my children, my grandchildren, I got great grandchildren now!

**ARSENEAULT:** Wow.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [laughs] And so, they're all doing good. You know, and I just have to be. . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Must be proud.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [43:36] Yes, yes. Thankful for that. So, and, you know. . . I tell them, I say it all started back here, you know. Because one of my granddaughters, she said, "I don't even know where Mossville is!" And I said, oh we're going to have to take you because it's not going to be nothing much left there. So in order for you to at least know where Mossville was.

**ARSENEAULT:** What do you tell them about it?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, I just, you know, mainly tell them that, you know, things that happened. What . . . because like, I tell them, I said, "We didn't have games and things like y'all do. We didn't stay inside. We was always outside playing." And I say, "We always . . . it was always something to do." Because like . . . There were times during the summer there like this

we would go crawfishing at the track . . . down there by the track. It would be a group of us all the time and . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Were there crawfish holes?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, it would be . . . Yeah, on side the track.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [44:22] Yeah, you have a pond, whatever, whatever, the water was there. So we would get a stick that was strong enough. We made our own poles, I mean we didn't buy nothing. So we took our . . . We got a stick, we tied some string on it, and we would get a piece of meat. . . fat meat, salt meat, whatever, and we would tie it on the end and we would go crawfishing. And we would catch crawfish, and we would come back home and our parents would boil it for us, whatever. This one time . . . Well, we stopped after this. We didn't go back. We was . . . It was down there, and a snake got on one of our lines, and we all just started running, hollering, screaming, running home, and so that was the end of going down there to crawfish.

But we did things, mostly it was in a group. You know, all of us that was around the same age. And, you know, it was in this area because I lived not too far from here. And we had basketball teams, softball teams, baseball teams, and we would go swimming. So, we did things, but we didn't have to . . . We didn't buy or spend like now. Even I would tell them about Christmas. They'd be wanting all this stuff. My little granddaughter, she gives me a list. You

pick whichever one you want to give me. Then she'll let somebody else pick something. And I say, you know at Christmas, we would get one gift. Whatever you wanted, that's what you would get. And you know, I say we were satisfied. I say, one year I might get the doll, the next year I might get tea sets. So, you know, but it was . . . And we all thought that was normal and good, you know, because that was the way things was done, and now . . . And I remember we got our TV. We had black and white TV. Then they came out with the little screen. Like the rainbow color screen that you could put over it to make it color [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** [47:18] I did not know about that! Wow.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Laughs] Yeah. And so when we first got the telephone, we had party lines. Nobody had private lines. And . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** So you could eavesdrop on people?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh yeah, yeah. Your phone would ring a certain ring. That's how you know it was for you, you know, for your house. And so sometimes when people would be on there, you would pick up, and they were talking. You know, you wouldn't know at that time. And then sometimes, you would just stay on there instead of hanging up [Laughs]. But yeah, so it was just a lot of things that's so different now, you know. And the children just don't realize all the different things that we did. And we were happy, you know. We were happy with that.

**ARSENEAULT:** Do you have a favorite childhood memory?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [48:15] Well, I guess it was the year . . . It was Christmas, and I wanted a bicycle, and so one of my friends told me that he saw Daddy riding my bicycle to my sister's house to hide. Because at that time, I still believed in Santa Claus. And I said, "No!" He said, "Yeah!" And he told me how it looked and everything. So when my sister was gone one day, I went over there to her house. And I looked, I found my bicycle. And I found my nephew's bicycle. Everything was all covered up [Laughs] And I told Daddy, I said "There's no Santa Claus!" And they kept on telling me, "Yes it was, yes it was!" I say, "But I saw my bicycle!" So I knew Santa Claus didn't bring it. So they wanted to still, I guess, let me have that memory to believe in Santa Claus so that next year I wanted this bride doll that I'd seen. And I could not find that doll nowheres at the house. Nowheres. Nobody's house. I went to my brother's house, my sister's house. Everywheres, looking. And I never did find it. And so, when I got it, and he said, "Well now, okay, where did this come from?" And I said, "It wasn't from Santa Claus, but I don't know where you hid it." [Laughs] But then, after that, Christmas wasn't the same. After I knew it wasn't Santa Claus. That's why I tell my children to let their kids believe as long as . . . you know, as long as they can. Even though I now a lot of people think that's like a myth and all that stuff. But I think, oh they have fun. You know, when they think it's Santa Claus. I say when it's no more Santa Claus, then it's like no more Christmas, you know.

**ARSENEAULT:** So that's your happiest and saddest memory at the same time?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I think so.

**ARSENEAULT:** Combined?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [50:27] [Laughs] Yeah. Yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** So many questions.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** So your dad was one of the community leaders?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** Could you talk a little bit more about him?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, Uncle Josh was the leader . . . Josh Rigmaiden. That's the swimming pool name.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh Okay. So this is Jacob Rigmaiden . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes, and that's Josh.

**ARSENEAULT:** And that's . . . and they're brothers.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** My brother's the pavilion. That's James.

**ARSENEAULT:** [50:59] Oh. Okay, so Josh is your dad . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Jacob.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay Jacob . . . Rigmaiden.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Jacob is my dad. And Josh, my uncle.

**ARSENEAULT:** Josh, your uncle, is the pool.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [agrees]

**ARSENEAULT:** And James . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** My brother.

**ARSENEAULT:** Your brother is the pavilion.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay, got it.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [laughs] Yeah, okay. Well, Uncle Josh was really . . . well he was

the mayor of Mossville. That's what everybody . . . yeah, everybody called him the mayor of Mossville.

**ARSENEAULT:** Was he voted, or . . . ?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I don't think so, I think it's just something that the people just made him.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [51:30] Because he would help them, and you know, anything that they needed. Like he was . . . Well, I guess Daddy like took his place when he died because he was like in with the politics as far as for the people to help the people in Mossville who was best . . . best served them and, you know, if they got in trouble or anything, he would go to talk to the sheriff, to the D.A., and, you know, help them to get out of the trouble or whatever. And so, this is what, you know, Uncle Josh did. And then when Uncle Josh died, well, they said Daddy was the mayor, but Dad say he wasn't the mayor. They never . . . There wasn't no election or nothing. It was just the people that, you know, just felt that way because they would help them. You know, whatever it was that they needed . . . financial, spiritual, whatever type of help, they would do that for them. So I guess that was just . . . I guess that was just in they blood to do that [Laughs].

**ARSENEAULT:** They were leaders.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [52:49] Yeah, yeah. They were always . . . yeah. But Daddy didn't believe, I guess, in the girls doing anything as far as for that way, and he only had one son and four girls, so I mean . . . you know, it wasn't nothing much that we did [Laughs].

**ARSENEAULT:** What did he expect y'all to do?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, I mean, you know, he didn't want us to be in politics. He didn't, you know . . . just the things when the community . . . When the people would have their meetings and things would go on, we weren't included. And I guess it was just the thing of that the male ran things, and the females didn't. I feel like that was a lot of it for how he was concerned. And I guess a lot was protecting the daughters and everything from anything that might would come up or . . . we were like protected. Because that was the way he is. That was the way he did at home. He would never . . . We never got a whipping. The girls didn't. James did [Laughs], but the girls didn't because he just felt that I guess that if he would whip us or something, he might hurt us. So all the whipping and the punishment fell on my mother. She very seldom would do anything either. So we pretty much got away with things. [Laughs] I mean, it wasn't too much. I mean we would get punished. But not like my friends . . . as much as my friends would, so . . .

**ARSENEAULT:** How would y'all get punished?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [54:49] Well . . . we would get whipped with the switch. Momma would make us go get a switch and would whip us. And one time I had, me and my nephew was



playing bingo, and he didn't want to play anymore, so he messed up the board, and I said a curse word. And so Momma made me go get the switch, and she gave me three licks. I'll never forget that. She gave me three licks, and I cried and cried and cried. And I guess it hurt me more that she whipped me than the licks, you know. But I mean, it was just. . . it hurt my feelings so much, but . . . that was . . . it wasn't . . . we never really, say, get punished. It wasn't punishment like, "I'm going to take this from you." It wasn't none of that stuff like it is today. But you would get your whipping and, you know . . . and then everything would be alright [Laughs].

**ARSENEAULT:** And that was that.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Laughs] Yeah, so. . .

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, goodness. . . So more about like the community leaders. I'm just curious because people, whenever we talk to them, they do mention that Josh Rigmaiden was like a community leader. So what kind of things did he do? He helped people, but was he always like in . . . People always over at your house, or how did that work?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [56:36] Well, not always over at the house, but if they needed something or whatever, they would come. But it was . . . they would just . . . you know, I guess like assist them if they got into trouble. They would go to the district attorney and talk for a minute. Try to help them if they were going to serve time or anything, let it be as least as possible.

**ARSENEAULT:** Do you remember any as . . . in particular?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [57:16] No, I mean I'm not going to say anything.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah, I don't want to say anything. But they . . . and you know, they would talk . . . I know they were friends with Ham Reed, the sheriff.

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah, and so you know . . . they got special friends with the politicians and things. And so they were able to help. If it was something they couldn't do, they knew where to go to get assistance. Like, if some of the children needed like . . . well they call it scholarship money, but at that time some of the politicians would give them money to go to, say McNeese, they would give them a certain amount like a hundred dollars or something, and back then that was good, you know. So they would do all these different type of things to, you know, just to help the community, the people. And they the ones that talked to get these things that we have here. They were diligent to . . . Because, I mean we didn't have anything. And to get, first we got the swimming pool.

[58:50] And they had to . . . you know, I mean just stay in conference talking to people, and you know, getting them to where they would build that for us. And even just this, the recreation center. All of that. The school. All of that was just things that they had to diligently

work, and you know, keep letting the people know that, you know, we needed this. And we needed, you know, it here. Because we didn't have anything. We didn't have, you know, the swimming pool, nothing. Even though other areas, Sulphur, Westlake, they had that. So the leaders wanted for the Mossville children to have the same things, and so this was most of their . . . how diligent they had to work. It's not like it is today, you know. You vote on it, and okay, you got it. It wasn't like that because they had to go through a lot of different stuff to get these things for us.

**WILLCOX:** [1:00:03] We've been talking for about an hour, just to let you know.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Really? Oh my goodness!

**ARSENEAULT:** I know, it goes by fast. You want to go a little longer, you good?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah, we can. Yeah. Okay.

**ARSENEAULT:** I want to hear a little bit more about Mossville when you were growing up. I'm also curious . . . Let me ask this first, since you were talking about your uncle and your dad. What did they talk about World War Two? What did they say about that?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** They weren't in the war.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** My father wasn't military, neither Uncle Josh. And neither one of them went in the military. I think when they had one war, Daddy was too young, and when they had the other one, he was too old. So he never got to go. My brother was in the army, but he wasn't . . . It wasn't during a war time.

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:00:56] Did anyone in the community ever talk about it, or . . .?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No.

**ARSENEAULT:** Wasn't a . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No.

**ARSENEAULT:** No stories about it or anything?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, I don't know anything about . . . yeah. They never talk about that.

**ARSENEAULT:** Okay, well growing up . . . what was the community like? Could you describe it? Like its physical appearance.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [1:01:19] We only had . . . It was just a few houses here. I guess between here and Prater Road . . . it may have been like eight houses? And that would be on this

side of the street. On that side the street it was even less. It just, you know, it wasn't . . . Because it wasn't many of us. You know. But a lot of people lived back down streets, you know. Where what we call dirt roads [Laughs] . . . gravel roads. They lived off of the Old Spanish Trail, you know. There were houses, but they were far apart. It wasn't many. And those people, you would have to go a long ways to go to their home. And I know, when Momma and Daddy I guess first married, they used to live somewheres up from Prater Road across the street, back down some dirt road because Momma used to say how far they had to walk to get to church. Because we went to the Morning Star over here past the railroad tracks.

And they lived past Prater Road and back up in the woods somewheres, and they would have to walk because at that time they didn't have a car. And she would walk with . . . She had the three children at first. And they would walk. Between my [brother] . . . James. Then we had Ida Mae and then Deannie. And between Deannie and Esther it's like a seven-year span. So Esther and then me, we were like separate from them. I mean because they were like almost grown when we were [born] . . . when we was doing things here. They were already had done left home. So it was . . . we was . . . It was like two different families.

Like now, nowadays it's kids fifteen years apart, you know [Laughs]. But back then, seven years, that was a long time for children to . . . for you to start having another family as such. But, yeah, it was mostly just vacant lots. Well, a lot of trees. You know, it was a lot of trees here, and it wasn't much else. You'd have to . . . We would walk distances to get to wherever we wanted to go. I guess that's why we mostly just stayed within our little community, our little area. And we played and when we got old enough to come to school, well then, we would play with all the children. Because the children from way down the other side of Prater Road, you know, where we all came to the same school. So we got to know them and to be friends with

them. But back then, we were all like kin. I mean, so we knew each other, but we didn't play with each other that much because of the distance of the houses and things.

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:05:14] When did it start getting more . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** About 1954, when they did the school.

**ARSENEAULT:** That's right, you said that.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah. That's when they started with all the different subdivisions and people started moving out here. They . . . you know, I don't know why, but they wanted to come out here. And it was a lot of land, so someone would buy up a big plot of land and build houses and things, so it was . . . I guess they decided they would come a little further west than Westlake, and we were it. [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** What were the weddings like in Mossville?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Most of the weddings were done at the house. My sister's wedding . . . it was done on the front porch [Laughs] and Daddy married them, and . . . but they, you know, it was the same like the weddings today. They had, you know, you had your bride, she had her dress, bridesmaids, they had their dresses. And to have the food mainly was like cake and punch or whatever. It wasn't no elaborate meals and all that stuff as to what they had. But I don't really remember her wedding. I remember the pictures, and I remember everybody talking about

it. So that's how I can talk about it and know, you know. Hers was the only wedding that I remember in my family. My brother, he married at the house, but they didn't have a big wedding. They just had a small wedding, and . . . let me see. And Deanie, I think she married in California. But well, me and Esther married in Lake Charles, so we were different from the rest [Laughs].

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:07:45] When did you . . . you have family in California?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yes.

**ARSENEAULT:** When did they move there?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh.

**ARSENEAULT:** Hey Charlotte, [you see her?]?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** In the early . . . nineteen hundreds I guess. They . . . because they had been there. When I was little they were there. That was Daddy's nieces, nephews, lived out there. And one of his uncles lived out there. Because at that time, when he went to California, he . . . Well, my father and . . . Well, the Rigmaidens were real light-skinned people. And they could pass for white, you know. My daddy could. People thought he was white at times. And so my uncle, when he went to California, he . . . They had a story about him in *Ebony Magazine* that he said "I live two lives." He would work and everything, and there he was white. And when he would come home, he was black. And his wife was dark. And so when anything . . . Anybody

from his job would come to his house, she was like his maid. So and he, you know, he wrote his story. His life story on that. And that's what I remember, you know, about him. That he did that. And he did that so, you know, that they could advance, they could have things. So that's, you know, sort of a lot of the Rigmaidens, they could pass for white. Especially that . . . the older group. My mother was dark, so I'm the darkest . . . I was the darkest one of the children. And so . . . But there were times when people thought you know, here, I mean not here in Mossville, because they all knew him, but like Westlake, Lake Charles. They took him for white.

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:10:17] [Agrees]

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** There was one time they had told me about at the grocery store. Daddy had put . . . was putting the groceries up on the counter, and Momma was standing behind the basket. And the clerk asked him where did his groceries stop and hers start [Laugh], and he say, "It's all together." You know, so it was times when, you know, people thought that he was white, and I know Uncle Josh, you know, all them they . . . I think they had maybe one brother that was dark. I guess it's always one in the family [Laughs] you know, that was dark that took after somebody else. But yeah, most of them was where they could have, yeah they could've been . . . they could have passed either way.

**ARSENEAULT:** What about . . . So was everyone invited to the weddings? Like the whole community?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah. Oh, yeah. Everybody. Yeah, everybody would come. That



was . . . Because mainly it would be the people in the weddings, they always people that lived here. I mean, you know. And let me see. I think she had about six girls in her wedding. And so they were all family, friends, you know. But, yeah. Everybody would be invited, you know, because at that time, it wasn't no lot of people here, so . . . yeah. And whatever we did, most everything was done together. Like if somebody would kill a hog or something, others would come, you know, and get food and it was just a thing they did. It was just. . . I don't know, it's just good.

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:12:29] What about funerals?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Funerals?

**ARSENEAULT:** Tell us a little bit about those.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh. Coming up . . . Uncle Josh's was the only one that I went to as a child. Me and Della Ann was his daughter [Frank and Della Ann the same age]. I know y'all had talked to her. I don't know if y'all interviewed her yet, but she's a Dodson now and

**ARSENEAULT:** Oh, Ms. Della Dodson.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah. Yeah, well we first cousins.

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:13:06] Oh, okay.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Yeah, and so Uncle Josh was her daddy. And so I remember going to his funeral, and it was just many people there because he knew so many people. It was whites, blacks, I mean everybody. All the people from here, and just all around. Because by him being a minister . . . And most of his churches, too, they weren't right here. He had churches other places. And so everybody would come from there because he was like what they call the president of the district, the district that they were in. So everybody would come. And all of the ministers, everything, they all had to talk. So funerals then was like two hours or longer because it was no time limit at that time. Now they put a time limit on you. So everybody would have to talk and it was just so many people.

[1:14:22] That was the same way, still was, with when my daddy died. Because he was the bishop, he was the head of the district also when he died. And so that's the way it was then. All the ministers . . . I mean it might be like twenty ministers, and they all had to talk. I mean because you couldn't leave nobody out. And after the funerals, they would have food for the people, same way as they do now. You would talk and . . . Because a lot of times you would . . . You hadn't seen them in a long time. Not until there's a funeral. So, you know, you get to talk to the people you hadn't talked to in years. That was the worst thing, how long they would last. And my brother said put a limit on the pastors when it was Daddy . . . when it was Daddy's funeral. But they told him they couldn't go by that three minutes or whatever [Laughs]. They say because of who he was, they had things that they wanted to say. And they couldn't say it in three minutes, so [?] he got mad.

But it was . . . it's just thing. A lot of times you do things because of who somebody was, not for what you want to do. There are times when you just have to accept things because Daddy, too, was well known. And the people, you know, Lake Charles and all of his church members

from Texas and all around came by him being over the district. And our district consisted of Louisiana and Texas . . . and California. And so people would come from all these areas, you know. And so you couldn't slight nobody. That was the thing. You couldn't slight any of them, because they were all important, and they all felt Daddy was important. So . . . and Daddy had, you know, just like Uncle Josh. They had friends. They had made friends, you know, with politicians, with owners of stores and different things because what's now Billy Navarre [car dealership], that used to be Glen Overman in Sulphur. And he was a pallbearer in Daddy . . . at Daddy's funeral. Daddy would buy cars from him, and they just got to be friends. So it was just, you know. The funerals that I've been to way back or years back, that was the way that they were. You know, you expected that. You knew you were going to be here . . . there a long time, you know. So you just have to come prepared.

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:17:55] I guess we can . . . Would you mind if we scheduled a follow-up interview? I didn't get to nearly any of my questions.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh, okay. That would be good.

**ARSENEAULT:** One last question before we go.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Okay.

**ARSENEAULT:** I was curious about any healers in the area. Are there any healers in Mossville?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Well, the only . . . I don't know of any personally. But I knew that my great . . . great [Laughs] grandfather, I think, was a healer. Luke Rigmaiden. And all I know of is what I was told, and that people would come to him and I don't know what he did, what type of . . . what . . . if he had herbs or . . . you know, I don't know. I don't know what he did. But I knew that they said like on Sundays, you know, I mean people just be all at his house from Texas, everywhere, to be come to be healed. But I don't know of anybody personally that . . . here that, you know, was into healing.

**ARSENEAULT:** Was your . . . you said a great-great-great grandfather?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [1:19:16] [agrees]

**ARSENEAULT:** Were you born with it? Or was it something you were born with? Or like how did you know you're a healer?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Oh, I don't know. [laughs].

**ARSENEAULT:** They didn't talk about it?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** I don't know, no. [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** [1:19:26] Okay, I'm just curious.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** No, I don't know. Because it wasn't handed down. I don't know of nobody after him . . . you know, that healed. I know that we believed in healing in our church, you know. The Christ Sanctified Holy Church believed in healing. And there were . . . I know that they healed a lady in Jennings [Louisiana] one year. She couldn't walk. And they, all the ministers, all the pastors came, and they laid hands on her, and they prayed, and this went for a long time, and the woman was able to walk. And but I guess we don't really call that healing. I . . . We more or less, I guess, call that spiritual healing . . . that God healed. He just worked through them. But it's . . . This was the only thing that I know of for myself that someone was healed.

And I know other people's been prayed for and they've laid hands on, and but you know, they didn't get healed. So, you know, I don't know. I don't know, you know what was the difference back then. That's why I say I don't know if he . . . if they had some kind of medication, you know, if you gave them. Because I'm sure it was something that he made, you know, if he healed them that way, and I don't know if he was spiritual. I don't know what it was then. But I do know that, you know, the Christ Sanctified Holy Church do believe in healing. You know. It's not . . . We don't even have any really in this area anymore . . . but they still have them in Texas, in the Texas district. So, but that was as far as I know. But it wasn't like you could just go up and heal somebody. You had to lay hands on them with oil. I know they did the oil. And prayer. Prayer was the thing.

**ARSENEAULT:** Did most people in Mossville believe in healing? With prayer?

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [1:22:23] Well, I don't know about the healing with prayer. I know that the people was believers in God, and faithful believers that, you know, didn't waver

from their faith, because majority of us went to church every Sunday, and you didn't do work on Sundays. More or less follow what the Bible said as to how you supposed to live. But some of the churches did not practice that, the healing, the laying on hands and the oil. A lot of churches didn't believe in that. So I'm not quite sure about, you know, whether the Baptists and the Methodists did or not. But I know there were times . . . I guess it was such a small group of people that they were all like on one Sunday, everybody would go to Mount Zion. The next Sunday they would go to Saint Paul, and then the next Sunday they would go to Morning Star. So they all worshiped together at times, and then the one Sunday they would have their own communion and everything, you know at their own church. Different churches. So they communed together, and you know, worshipped together, for years. And then I guess after they membership started building up, then they stopped. They started just, you know, being at their own churches.

**ARSENEAULT:** That's interesting.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [1:24:17] [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** Like a community of faith.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Pardon]?

**ARSENEAULT:** It's like a community of faith.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** Right. Yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** Aright, well, I think we could talk all day.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** And we'd probably both be really tired. So just thank you so much for sharing with us and . . .

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** You're welcome, yeah.

**ARSENEAULT:** . . . talking with us.

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [1:24:35] I enjoyed this. I did think, I said, "What can I say for an hour?" [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** I told you! [Laughs]

**RIGMAIDEN-FRANK:** [Laughs]

**ARSENEAULT:** We'll have to set up a follow-up interview, and we have some other . . .

[1:24:45]

[End Tape 4486. End Session I.]