

TRANSCRIPT: *Sidetracked: Travels Across the Undiscovered South*

Eugene Thomas

Quincy, Florida

Photography and oral history

by Eric Dusenbery

“For people with good irrigation — farming's pretty good. When your dry-land farm like me and couple other farmers around here, you've got to depend on what the good Lord sends you. Sometimes, He doesn't want us to have any rain. So, I have little worry spaces. Right now, He's given us some rain, and we still got problems.

When He sends that rain, all of us are in the same boat. It's been a pretty good year, so far. I wouldn't tell anybody to go into farming if you've got no farming experience. It's too high a risk.

My parents were involved in farming a little bit. They could take four or 5 acres and survive. They grew 75% of their food. They were going to eat. But my father, well, I didn't get to know him very much — he passed when I was nine years old. After he passed, my mother had some farming experience and we had a mule so we tried it.

I think a person should do what they like. I don't want to put the responsibility of having anyone work on a farm. But me, I'm different. I enjoy farming.

I'm a lonesome person — a lonely person. If the equipment is going fine and I'm by myself, I'm happy. I chose farming. I never liked someone standing over me and telling me what to do. If I can be a full-time farmer, I can be my own boss.”



###