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1994

Rosa Mae Brown, my name at Birth  
Rosalie Florence Thompson, I didn't  
like the name so I changed it, as  
I couldn't get a Birth Certificate so  
I couldn't name my self,

I was 10 days old when the  
1910 hurricane came, my family  
was living at Lostman River  
fishing, they took to the fish skiff  
just went with the wind <sup>then</sup> turned  
a washtub over ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> and the  
three boys, Rob, Jim, Leslie, had  
to take the Rain & Weather  
with just the top of the mango  
tree out. The water was real  
bright. After this we moved  
to Lane place when Julius was  
borned, from there we moved  
to Fakahakee

Uncle Frank, mama brother lived  
there (Bunk) James Hamilton was  
near my age, we went to school  
together our first term.

Later we moved to Chokolosee  
Dad made a palamuto shack  
there where the motel now stand  
while they builded the house

A two story house where I spent my school years, until I married, <sup>my dad and</sup> Dad, ~~and~~ <sup>my dad and</sup> this old boy fished, and he would <sup>make</sup> ~~burn~~ <sup>burn</sup> ~~and~~ he would cut button wood and stack it perined stiles, and we would put tufts of grass all over and pack mud over the grass, so no air could escape made a <sup>opened</sup> and made a fire in side & sealed it up & let it burn for weeks until the button wood was turned to ~~coal~~ <sup>coal</sup>

Then ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> bagged the ~~coal~~ <sup>coal</sup> in croker bags, as soon it was shipped to Key West it was shipped to other parts of the country. also would cut & carry Card wood, he would salt fish & fish roe packed in barrels most of them ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> sent to Cuba ~~people~~ <sup>people</sup> would grow vegetables sweet potatoes & tomatoes. Manana brother huck Frank owned a log track of land, my other ~~uncle~~ <sup>uncle</sup> Jesse growed tomatoes

On the land, mama would wrap & pack them in special boxes & Dad would carry ever thing any one had to sell, and would bring back stock for the stores or any thing any one wanted, that was the only way anyone could get things of course there were leather boats to go to Key West & the fish boat that bought fish went to Punta Gorda also brought freight for people

All Gro. was either in barrels like flour, sugar, corn meal, or 100 # bags, or cans. 1 Hal or 5 Hal cans.

Lots of the time the family would go to Key West <sup>where we arrived</sup> in a hack, carriage drawn with horse the were only a few cars there. I stayed sea sick all the way over had had this sail boat call a sloop. it had a large sail a small sail & a job. Lesly we call him Shink would take me with him in his small boat go in along the shore to shoot birds, when he <sup>Dad</sup> sailed down the shore. he got his nick name

4  
from falling over board they said  
he was after shiners a minnow  
we would visit uncle Joe & his brother  
his sister Minda they both had kids  
our age but they talked knock style  
I could hardly understand them  
but it was just as we always got  
to go to the 104 Stone House

I went to school on Chokoloskee  
tho the eight grade then started school  
at Everglades, Dorothy <sup>McKinney</sup> & Holly a girl  
kin to Smallwood, stayed with Alice  
Brown she lived across the river  
down at the mouth of Everglades River  
we would row across the river and  
walk, sometimes we caved both the  
street car, at that time the land  
around the school was under  
water, they had a Dock from the  
street

At the time I was going to school  
in Everglades my parents lived  
at the Old Watson place, they  
cared for the place for a man  
that lived in Miami

had grown cane & made cane  
syrup there was a mill to grind

on Chokoloskee Beach

Came and a large kettle to boil  
the juice to make syrup. he would  
put it in half gal. cans & peel it,  
he also grewed bannas, sweet potatoes  
Shine had a boat would take  
me down there ever week end, unless  
my family came to see home on  
Week ends - on Chokoloskee

When I was about 5 years  
old my dad & the two older boys  
Rob. & Jim would dig clams, we  
camped on Providence Key Mr Dixie  
had a canning plant on marso  
he also had a clam dredge &  
a boat to carried the clam to <sup>the</sup> plant.  
I remember once I was reaching  
over the side of the skiff trying  
to find a clam, a big old stone  
crab got me by the big toe  
my dad had to crush him to get  
him off.

My Grandma Dads mother  
said she moved to Chokoloskee when  
she was a small girl, there name  
was Jickers, the Santanis was  
living <sup>there</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>there</sup> they planted bannas,  
limes, Avocata pears, to ships

(6)

to Key West. Grandma married  
a sailor by the name of Thompson  
who was my Daddy, Dad. he lost  
his life in a Hurricane on the  
Florida Keys.

We were married April 8, 1927  
in Everglades, a double wedding  
my Brother Leslie (Shine) and Dorothy  
McKinney my best friend. We stood  
up together & took our vows together  
was a little building down by  
the Dock, while they were building  
the Court house. Judge J. J. Storter  
married us.

Kathleen & I was going to school  
there, they were just building up  
Everglades — at our wedding

We had lots of cake & limon  
aid, plenty of music fiddle, accordion,  
every body was invited, we got  
lots of present at Mamma's house.

I lived in the up stairs and  
Shine lived downstairs in Mamma's  
house. Mamma & Daddy lived at  
that time at Chatham Bend, took  
care of the place for a man lived  
in Miami.

When he gave up down there  
Bill's <sup>Daddy</sup> Daddy & <sup>Wylie & Sammie</sup> mother moved  
there to keep the place, they were  
paid good to care for everything  
Grandma & Granddad Brown.

Daddy & I moved down there  
to stay awhile with them and  
mullet fish after Grace was  
barned.

For a while Dexter Hammett  
and Esther came & fished with  
him, and then Harry Brown  
and his wife ~~fish~~ came & fished  
a while.

There was lots sugar cane  
and Bananas growing there. Granddad  
Brown planted, Beans, peas, he  
had a large pecan patch I went  
down to pick peas one morning  
real early, so I could get them  
ready for dinner, putting the peas  
in my Apron, I heard some  
one whistling I thought some one  
trying to scare me, but when  
I looked around Leonard was  
plowing across the way, and there  
was a big old wildcat galloping

me, he would stand up on his hind legs + whistle then come a little closer + whistle again

as ~~fast~~ soon as I could I hurried to the house probably 1/2 mile & but I got there in a hurry

Some times we would go swimming in that old black river I just knew one time I was going to be eat by alligators as the river was full of them

Most times when we went down there, while going to school on week ends Dorothy would go with me and Bill your dady would go with shine