

"There Was Nothing You Could Do to Make a Dollar Unless It Was Work on Someone Else's Farm," Interview, August 19, 1994

George Jiggetts: See where we come ain't nothing but farm, no factory - [there's] factories now - but no factories at all. No factory. No work. There was nothing you could do to make a dollar unless it was work on somebody else's farm if you had caught up, you know.

Susan Levitas: So, your uncles had gone North to look for work.

GJ: Yeah. They were all set up. And I went up and stayed with them some.

SL: What would do for that month you'd be up there?

GJ: Sometimes I'd work, most of the time nothin'. Yeah, the Coca Cola plant were there. I went up there one time and stayed up there for six months working at the Coca Cola plant. Then I'd go back home.

SL: What did you think of the North when you first went there?

GJ: Well, Baltimore wasn't much different than down in the country, but Philadelphia was good. And then when I went to New York, that was better. You know.

SL: What about it?

GJ: In New York? Well, you was free in New York. But in Philadelphia, there was no money at all. There just wasn't any money around. And in Baltimore - a Black couldn't even drive a taxi in Baltimore. No Black taxi drivers in Baltimore in 1939 and 40 at all.

SL: How did you know that at the time? Were you already interested in the taxi business?

GJ: When I went up there, I was checking on that at the same time.