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HIST 798

Dr. Morgan

Junction City, Kansas in the 1930s

“A mind is a terrible thing to waste,” is the phrase coined by Mr. Arthur Fletcher, also known as “the father of the Affirmative Action Enforcement Movement.”¹ Mr. Fletcher attended, and played football for Washburn University, played for the Los Angeles Rams, was the first African-American team member for the Baltimore Colts², and had an extensive and successful political career, during which he was a part of four presidential administrations.³ However, before he did all of that, he was a student at Junction City Junior/Senior High School in Junction City, Kansas. While attending JCHS, he staged his first civil rights protest against the school yearbook by refusing to allow the pictures of the African-American students to be placed at the back of the yearbook.⁴ Graduating in 1943,

¹ Kansas State Historical Society, “Arthur Fletcher,” Kansas Historical Society, http://www.kshs.org/portraits/fletcher_arthur.htm.

² Kansas State Historical Society, “Arthur Fletcher,” Kansas Historical Society, http://www.kshs.org/portraits/fletcher_arthur.htm.

³ Associated Press, “Presidential advisor Arthur Fletcher, 80, dies,” MSNBC, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8567206/>.

⁴ Kansas State Historical Society, “Arthur Fletcher,” Kansas Historical Society, http://www.kshs.org/portraits/fletcher_arthur.htm

the decade Arthur Fletcher would have experienced in Junction City was the 1930s, which makes it an intriguing time period and place to study.

Junction City, Kansas is located in Geary County, in the east-central sector of Kansas.⁵ Junction City lies between the Smokey Hill and Republican Rivers, just west of where they join together and become the Kansas River.⁶ The settlers of Junction City would have encountered its native flora of northern floodplain forest and bluestem prairie, and experienced the Flint Hills.⁷ Though the Flint Hills may have made the travel difficult, the location of the city was desirable because the floodplain forest provided trees for a wood supply and, because of the Smokey Hill and Republican rivers, the area has easy access to principle surface water resources and yields more than 500 gallons of ground water per minute.⁸ By 1878, the Kansas Pacific Railroad ran right through Junction City, which was known as the Union Pacific Railroad after 1916 railroad operations.⁹ Junction City became even more accessible when state and U.S. highways were developed because it sits right on I-

⁵ Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self, *Historical Atlas of Kansas* (Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), Map #58.

⁶ Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self, *Historical Atlas of Kansas* (Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), Map #3.

⁷ Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self, *Historical Atlas of Kansas* (Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), Map #5 and 3.

⁸ Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self, *Historical Atlas of Kansas* (Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), Map #6 and 51.

⁹ Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self, *Historical Atlas of Kansas* (Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), Map #30 and 36.

70/U.S.-40 and S-18. However, these roads were not developed until after the 1930s due to the Great Depression and the outbreak of the Second World War.¹⁰

In 1930, Geary County had a total population of 14,366, and a black population of 1,030.¹¹ Junction City was mostly rural, but it was still the largest town in Geary County. The United States Federal Census for 1930 showed Junction City had a total population of 7,407. The African-American population consisted of 493 people, which was about 48% of the county's black population. There was a total of 6,035 people in Junction City who were 10-years-old and older, and 1.2% of those people were illiterate.¹²

Junction City gained a significant amount of its population because it's only a few miles away from Fort Riley, also in Geary County. Fort Riley was the "only cavalry school maintained by the United States Army."¹³ Many of the military families lived in Junction City. The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas also states that Junction City had "developed as a trading point for soldiers from the Fort Riley Reservation."¹⁴

The 1930s was a difficult time for Junction City. The country was experiencing the Great Depression, but the town was also facing natural disasters. In addition, as Arthur

¹⁰ Homer E. Socolofsky and Huber Self, *Historical Atlas of Kansas* (Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press: 1988), Map #49.

¹¹ Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930* (United States Government Printing Office, Washington: 1932), pg. 832.

¹² Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930* (United States Government Printing Office, Washington: 1932), pg. 857.

¹³ Work Projects Administration, *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas* (University Press of Kansas: 1984), pg. 350.

¹⁴ Work Projects Administration, *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas* (University Press of Kansas: 1984), pg. 352.

Fletcher would have experienced, Junction City was not immune to the ideas of racism and prejudice that traveled west with the white settlers.

The Great Depression

During the 1930s, America was dealing with the Great Depression. In 1929, the stock market crashed, severely reducing the paper value of common stock. Banks failed, businesses shut down, factories closed and people lost their life savings due to this crash. “Farming income fell some 50 percent. By 1932 approximately one out of every four Americans was unemployed.”¹⁵

The Depression forced the Junction City school system to start charging students from Fort Riley tuition in 1936. “Three dollars per month for kindergarten through eighth grade, and six dollars per month for ninth through twelfth grade.”¹⁶ The board voted to end this program in 1938.¹⁷

During the decade of the Depression was also accompanied by “inadequate furnace boilers, hordes of termites, a scarlet fever epidemic, a scare of polio, a bank moratorium, the

¹⁵ Modern American Poetry, “The Depression in the United States-An Overview,” Modern American Poetry, <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/overview.htm>.

¹⁶ Centennial Committee, *Centennial Program Script 1862-1962* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1962) pg. 30.

¹⁷ Centennial Committee, *Centennial Program Script 1862-1962* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1962) pg. 30.

lowest teachers' salaries in the 20th century, and a reduced faculty.”¹⁸ However, the school seemed to make it through the decade decently:

In spite of all the hard times, disease, war, and depression, the Junction City Board of Education saw fit to join the Kansas State Association of School Boards, buy lumber for bleachers in Fegan Field, enlarge the gymnasium, and purchase a check protector machine in 1934; buy the Rizer lots in 1935; purchase three ditto machines in 1936; erect a permanent stone stadium, and sponsor supervised play instruction and baseball coaching in 1937.¹⁹ [...] In 1938 the stadium and ticket office at Fegan Field were completed under the auspices of the W.P.A. by consent of the school board, at a cost of \$2,103.76 to the Federal Government and approximately the same amount by the school district.²⁰ [...] A new permanent record system for students, hot lunches, band uniforms, bicycle racks, new playground equipment, building repairs, and sets of books for departmentalized grades on a rental basis are only a few of the policies inaugurated in this era with an eye to the future.²¹

At their 50th anniversary reunion, the graduating class of 1937 stated they did not even realize they were deprived, partly because smoking and drinking were not popular indulgences for them and prohibition was still in effect.²²

The Dust Bowl

¹⁸ Centennial Committee, *Centennial Program Script 1862-1962* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1962) pg. 30.

¹⁹ Centennial Committee, *Centennial Program Script 1862-1962* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1962) pg. 32.

²⁰ Centennial Committee, *Centennial Program Script 1862-1962* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1962) pg. 32.

²¹ Centennial Committee, *Centennial Program Script 1862-1962* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1962) pg. 33.

²² Geary County Historical Society, *Getting an Education* (Geary County Historical Society: 1989) pg. 16.

Also during the 1930s, drought and over-cultivated and overgrazed land contributed to the phenomenon known as the Dust Bowl. Though only the southwest part of Kansas was officially a part of the Dust Bowl, the whole state of Kansas was affected. The dust storms carried away the land's topsoil which, along with the drought, reduced the number of crops produced. The storms would also cover everything with dust. In some places, the storms could blot out the sun, as seen in Figure 1. The Dust Bowl made it so difficult for some families, in the Great Plains, to make a living, many moved westward.



Figure 1. A dust cloud moves across the plains during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s.

SOURCE:

<http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/news/MOphotogallery/Historical/dust%20bowl4.jpg>

Junction City experienced its worst dust storm in history on March 20, 1935.²³ The “black blizzard” made it so dark that residents were using electric lights throughout the day, schools were released at noon because parents were concerned about their children getting

²³ “An Unusual Weather Year,” *The Junction City Union*, January 1, 1936, Noon Edition.

home in the storm, and trains were behind schedule. “Visibility in Junction City was less than a block at times.”²⁴ The next day, *The Junction City Union* reported that an estimated 138,777 tons of dirt had fallen over the entire county: 1,112 pounds per acre. “All surfaces, both inside and out of houses were covered with the dust. Curtains in houses gave off a cloud of dust upon touch. Streets and sidewalks showed an even film of western plains topsoil.”²⁵ On March 22, the city water pumps pumped an additional 216,000 gallons of city water as residents tried to wash away the dust.²⁶

Another graduate of 1937 recalled the dust storm and how dark it was at the middle of the day. His response to school being let out at noon was, “This was never done. School was held no matter what the weather was like.”²⁷ In the winter, rural students would stay in town with relatives to make it to school, and Fort Riley students would be transported back and forth in Army trucks.²⁸

The drought was also affecting lakes in the area. On March 25, *The Union* reported that the Seven Springs Lake was drying up due to lack of rainfall and high winds, and would have to be drained if it did not rain soon.²⁹

²⁴ “Dust Storm Shrouds City,” *The Junction City Union*, March 20, 1935.

²⁵ “Storm Leaves Coat of Grime,” *The Junction City Union*, March 21, 1935.

²⁶ “Wash Away the Dust,” *The Junction City Union*, March 22, 1935.

²⁷ Geary County Historical Society, *Getting an Education* (Geary County Historical Society: 1989) pg. 16.

²⁸ Geary County Historical Society, *Getting an Education* (Geary County Historical Society: 1989) pg. 16.

²⁹ No title, *The Junction City Union*, March 25, 1935.

In the places where the dust storm was really bad, deaths were reported due to a condition deemed “dust-pneumonia.” This condition came from citizens inhaling an excessive amount of dust.³⁰

In early May of 1935, the dust bowl received some relief from the extreme drought when heavy rain showers spread across the Midwest. For some places in the dust bowl, it was the most rain they had experienced in three years; between two and three inches.³¹

Crop conditions were greatly improved. In Scotty City, Kansas, it was reported that farmers were looking to corn and sorghum to replace ill fated wheat plantings. “Professor R. E. Throckmorton, Kansas State College agronomist, said rainfall ‘would make a wheat crop’ in the central portion of Kansas. He said precipitation would produce alfalfa in many sections where there otherwise would not be any and would benefit conditioning the ground for row crops and soil erosion work.”³²

It was also reported that the rains would bring back the cattle and livestock industry. “The supply of stock water in eastern Kansas and Oklahoma was increased and pasture and farmlands were benefited. Considerable moisture has been received in eastern Kansas of late.”³³

³⁰ “Soaking Rains in Dust Bowl,” *Junction City Union*, May 14, 1935.

³¹ “Soaking Rains in Dust Bowl,” *Junction City Union*, May 14, 1935.

³² “Soaking Rains in Dust Bowl,” *The Junction City Union*, May 14, 1935.

³³ “Soaking Rains in Dust Bowl,” *The Junction City Union*, May 14, 1935.

The heavy rains brought relief to the dust bowl, but also caused some damage due to flooding.³⁴ Junction City would experience this in June.

The Flood of the Republican

Just a few months after its worst dust storm, Junction City experienced the worst flood the city had seen since 1903. Excessive rain caused the Republican River to rise by 18 feet. The water blocked highways, broke gas mains, and flooded the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad. “It is expected to be a week or more before rail service can be resumed to Clay Center,” reported *The Junction City Union*.³⁵ Some families waited too long to leave their home to seek safety and were marooned in trees, on hilltops, or on the roofs of houses. There were a large number of livestock losses reported.³⁶ “Residents of the valley measured the flood in terms of thousands of dollars of losses in crops, livestock, farm buildings, farm machinery and household goods.”³⁷ Luckily, no lives were lost due to the flood.

African-Americans in Junction City

African-Americans in Junction City had to face segregation and racism just like African-Americans all over the United States. They were rarely discussed in the city

³⁴ “Soaking Rains in Dust Bowl,” *The Junction City Union*, May 14, 1935.

³⁵ “Flood Sweeps Down Republican,” *The Junction City Union*, June 3, 1935.

³⁶ “Flood Sweeps Down Republican,” *The Junction City Union*, June 3, 1935.

³⁷ “Peak of High Water Passes,” *The Junction City Union*, June 4, 1935.

newspaper. If they were, they were given the label of “negro” or “colored” even if the article included the individual’s full name. For example, “Charles Bindom, 24, negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment today [...]”³⁸ Most of the information available about African-American experiences in Junction City comes from interviews done after 1980.

It was difficult for blacks to get good jobs in Junction City. The only jobs readily obtainable were domestic jobs or in hotels or cafes. Most had to travel to Fort Riley to get a decent job, and even there the “blacks were held back.”³⁹ “Cooking was about the only thing open to blacks,” said Lois Grimes, a resident of Junction City for 70 years, in an interview with the *Union*.⁴⁰

In town, African-Americans could only sit in certain areas of theaters and public places, away from the white population.⁴¹ They could only swim in the pool on Monday because they cleaned the pool on Tuesday.⁴² Other places denied blacks access completely.

Junction City Junior/Senior High School was integrated because all high schools were integrated by state law.⁴³ However, segregation was still experienced within the school.

There were blacks in the school, but there was still no real acceptance of blacks. At

³⁸ “Negro Killer Gets Life,” *The Junction City Union*, February 7, 1933.

³⁹ Mike Heronemus, “Growing Up Black in Junction City,” *The Junction City Union*, March 4, 2007.

⁴⁰ L’Tanya Pugh, “Grimes recalls experiences of being black, living in JC,” *The Junction City Union*, February 12, 1990.

⁴¹ Mike Heronemus, “Growing Up Black in Junction City,” *The Junction City Union*, March 4, 2007.

⁴² L’Tanya Pugh, “Grimes recalls experiences of being black, living in JC,” *The Junction City Union*, February 12, 1990.

⁴³ Lecture Notes, Dr. MJ Morgan, Kansas State University, April 29, 2009.

graduation, the whites walked in first, then the blacks. They also sat separately during the ceremony.⁴⁴ Guidance counselors would even discourage black students from taking classes they “wouldn’t need” and recommend getting a job shining shoes or being a porter on a train.⁴⁵ The school yearbooks barely show any sign of African-American students except for sports and club pictures. Individual pictures of the senior class were listed in alphabetical order, except for the African-Americans who were placed separately at the end.⁴⁶ Even so, only a few of the students were allowed to have pictures taken. Lois Grimes said this was changed with the protest of Fletcher’s class. “There were about six of them. They refused to have pictures taken for the yearbook if they had to be separated or put in the back.”⁴⁷ She also said Fletcher’s class broke the separate seating at graduation as well.

In interviews, Arthur Fletcher spoke very highly of his time at Junction City Junior/Senior High School. “Even though I was black, I got the best high school education one can get,” said Fletcher. “We had the finest teachers and classes, despite the fact the staff

⁴⁴ L’Tanya Pugh, “Grimes recalls experiences of being black, living in JC,” *The Junction City Union*, February 12, 1990.

⁴⁵ Mike Heronemus, “Growing Up Black in Junction City,” *The Junction City Union*, March 4, 2007.

⁴⁶ Junction City Junior/Senior High School Yearbook Staff, *Pow-Wow* (Junction City Junior/Senior High School: 1930-1930).

⁴⁷ L’Tanya Pugh, “Grimes recalls experiences of being black, living in JC,” *The Junction City Union*, February 12, 1990.

was all white.”⁴⁸ Several other African-Americans who were interviewed agreed they received the same education as white children, “so they didn’t feel slighted in that regard.”⁴⁹

Arthur Fletcher gave his high school coach and mentor, Henry Shenk, credit for his successful athletic career. “During gasoline rationing, [Mrs. Shenk] and Mrs. (Edna) Eisenhower would drive the ninth and 10th grade basketball teams in cars to play at Salina, Abilene, Clay Center and Manhattan.”⁵⁰ When traveling, Henry Shenk would not allow the team to eat at any facility that would not serve every single member of the team. He also held the same expectations for each player regardless of color.⁵¹ Fletcher said he felt lucky his father was transferred to Fort Riley. According to Fletcher, “Race wasn’t a significant factor in Junction City, even in those days of segregation. The white businessmen encouraged the black athletes.” He further stated, “It was hard for them to turn you down if you wanted to do something with your life.”⁵² Now, this view differs from other experiences described earlier in the section. There is no explanation that can be found to reconcile the contradiction except different people have different experiences. Perhaps Mr. Fletcher meant that racism was not a significant factor in Junction City when compared to other cities and other states.

⁴⁸ Bob Honeyman, “National, black leader credits JC educators for his success,” *The Junction City Union*, April 24, 1984.

⁴⁹ Mike Heronemus, “Growing Up Black in Junction City,” *The Junction City Union*, March 4, 2007.

⁵⁰ Bob Honeyman, “bits of honey,” *The Junction City Union*, April 26, 1984.

⁵¹ Bob Honeyman, “bits of honey,” *The Junction City Union*, April 26, 1984.

⁵² Bob Honeyman, “bits of honey,” *The Junction City Union*, April 26, 1984.

Those who were a part of the youth in the 1930s agree that white children and black children got along just fine; it was the parents that caused the problems.⁵³

Junction City did not have definitive African-American neighborhoods like in Manhattan, Kansas where they all lived South of Colorado Street⁵⁴. In *Our Town on the Plains*, it says, “The percentage of African-American children was fairly consistent across all four of the city’s elementary schools, and function of that group’s dispersed pattern of housing.”⁵⁵ The lack of job opportunities did limit the choice of housing to smaller, older dwellings, however. Around 1920, Shortridge describes the distribution of African-American housing as resembling a doughnut. “Some people lived southeast and directly west of the business district, near the homes of white families they worked for as servants. More found shelter north of Ninth Street, either near the railroad tracks or in the small houses of Cuddy’s Addition in the isolated, far northwest section of town.”⁵⁶ The pattern of disbursement in the 1930s still resembled a doughnut, but it was fuller and more spread out as more African-Americans moved into Junction City. They expanded to the North and East of Adams Street.⁵⁷

As mentioned earlier, Junction City grew in population mainly due to its location near Fort Riley. This especially seemed to be the case for the growth of the African-American

⁵³ Mike Heronemus, “Growing Up Black in Junction City,” *The Junction City Union*, March 4, 2007.

⁵⁴ Lecture Notes, Dr. MJ Morgan, Kansas State University, April 29, 2009.

⁵⁵ James R. Shortridge, *Our Town on the Plains* (University Press of Kansas: 2000) pg. 183.

⁵⁶ James R. Shortridge, *Our Town on the Plains* (University Press of Kansas: 2000) pg. 128.

⁵⁷ Junction City Telephone Company, *Telephone Directories* (Junction City Telephone Company: 1932, 1936, 1938, 1940).

population. The common family scenario for African-American students at Junction City Junior/Senior High School in the 1930s was a father, born outside of Kansas, who was a soldier, stationed at Fort Riley, and married a woman (the mother) who was born in Kansas and resided with her family in Junction City.

William Hurd, Jr., an African-American boy who graduated from Junction City Junior/Senior High School in 1935 is an example. When William Hurd, Sr. married Lorena Jones on February 24, 1914, Hurd had been stationed at Fort Riley for two years and Jones had been in Junction City for 7, living with her father, G.B. Jones at 739 W 14th Street.⁵⁸⁵⁹ Hurd was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1887, lived in Chicago, Illinois, then moved to Kansas when stationed at Fort Riley.⁶⁰⁶¹ Lorena Jones did not live in Junction City her whole life, but she was born and raised in Kansas.⁶² When William Hurd died in 1942, at the age of 55, he had been living at 723 W 14th Street Junction City, Kansas for 25 years.⁶³

William Hurd, Jr.'s younger brother Emmett James Hurd also joined the army, and still lived at 723 W 14th Street when his son, James Martin Hurd was born in 1944.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ "Jones-Hurd Nuptials," *The Junction City Union*, March 7, 1914.

⁵⁹ "Death of Vivian Mae Hurd," *The Junction City Union*, August 5, 1918.

⁶⁰ "Death of William Hurd," *The Junction City Union*, January 27, 1942.

⁶¹ "Jones-Hurd Nuptials," *The Junction City Union*, March 7, 1914.

⁶² Kansas State Historical Society Archives Division, *Decennial Census, Kansas, 1915, Vol. 99* (Filmed by Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka: 1968).

⁶³ "Death of William Hurd," *The Junction City Union*, January 27, 1942.

⁶⁴ No Title, *The Junction City Union*, October 5, 1944.

Many African-American couples had the same story, such as Harry and Laverne Mobley. Harry was born and raised in Pennsylvania, then met Laverne who was born and raised in Kansas, while stationed at Fort Riley.⁶⁵

Buffalo Soldiers

According to Arthur Fletcher, Junction City was “ahead of the times in race relations during the 1930s and 1940s because of the all-black 9th and 10th Calvary units stationed at Fort Riley.”⁶⁶

The 9th and 10th Calvary units, also known as “Buffalo Soldiers,”⁶⁷ were the segregated, all-black Calvary units stationed at Fort Riley. They lived in a neighborhood of little brick houses near Pawnee Park in northwest Junction City. The Buffalo Soldiers were story tellers and role models to the community, and greatly respected in Junction City.

“Even though at that time there was segregation, they still had pretty good lives. Respect is one of the greatest words,” said Marvin Hammond in an interview with the *Junction City Union* in 1999.⁶⁸ The brick houses that were homes for the Buffalo Soldiers are still being used in Junction City as can be seen in Figure 2.

⁶⁵ Kansas State Historical Society Archives Division, *Decennial Census, Kansas, 1925, Vol. 83 (part)-84* (Filmed by Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka: 1981).

⁶⁶ Bob Honeyman, “National, black leader credits JC educators for his success,” *The Junction City Union*, April 24, 1984.

⁶⁷ David A. Collins, “Photo ‘memorial’ dedicated to ‘good people’,” *The Junction City Union*, May 30, 1999.

⁶⁸ David A. Collins, “Photo ‘memorial’ dedicated to ‘good people’,” *The Junction City Union*, May 30, 1999.



Figure 2. The Bailey family sits outside their home in Pawnee Park in Junction City, KS. These houses were homes for the Buffalo Soldiers in the 1930s and 1940s. SOURCE: *The Junction City Union*. January 6, 2006.

The Buffalo Soldiers, both retired sergeants in Junction City and those on active duty in Fort Riley, sponsored Boy Scout Troop 117, the only black Boy Scout troop in Kansas. “The Scout troop was the most concrete example of their concern for the younger generation.”⁶⁹ Troop 117 allowed African-American boys from Junction City and Fort Riley to develop friendships with each other. The military sponsorship also gave them opportunities that few other troops were able to enjoy. They were often provided with transportation, refreshment, and camping supplies. They were also able to ride horses and attend jamborees. The troop also exposed the boys to respectable men who cared about them

⁶⁹ Susan Lloyd Franzen, “Boy Scouts reflect on life lessons learned,” *The Junction City Union*, February 20, 2000.

and pushed them to succeed. “Six members of the troop graduated from college, and most of the others were successful in whatever line of work they chose.”⁷⁰ James F. Warren of Boy Scout Troop 117 remembers the extended family aspect of the black community in the 1930s: “All the elders in Junction City were surrogate parents. Any of them would call my parents if they saw us doing wrong.”⁷¹ Many of the former scouts believe their experience in Troop 117 was a “vital influence in their lives.”⁷²

1940

In the 1930s, Junction City experienced the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and the flooding of the Republican River. However, the population of Junction City *increased* to 8,507 by 1940, which was 56% of the total population of Geary County.⁷³ In addition, the African-American population of Junction City increased to 646, 52% of the total African-American population of Geary County,⁷⁴ despite the segregation experienced by its black residents.

⁷⁰ Susan Lloyd Franzen, “Boy Scouts reflect on life lessons learned,” *The Junction City Union*, February 20, 2000.

⁷¹ Susan Lloyd Franzen, “Boy Scouts reflect on life lessons learned,” *The Junction City Union*, February 20, 2000.

⁷² Susan Lloyd Franzen, “Boy Scouts reflect on life lessons learned,” *The Junction City Union*, February 20, 2000.

⁷³ Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940* (United States Government Printing Office, Washington: 1943), pg. 140.

⁷⁴ Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940* (United States Government Printing Office, Washington: 1943), pg. 140.

Arthur Fletcher's affirmative action efforts during his political career could be seen as an indication that he experienced heavy racism and discrimination while growing up. However, Arthur Fletcher himself did not believe Junction City to be as affected by segregation as other cities, and even felt lucky to have lived there. The general opinion of the city may vary from person to person, depending on personal experiences, but the overall consensus is that Junction City was a nice place to live; for both races. "[Lois] Grimes said she has fond memories of Junction City and is glad she has made it her home all these years."⁷⁵

⁷⁵ L'Tanya Pugh, "Grimes recalls experiences of being black, living in JC," *The Junction City Union*, February 12, 1990.

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Methods

Research for this paper was difficult because some of the information just isn't there. By the 1930s, school records and phone directories were no longer identifying African-Americans by labeling them as "colored". Because of this, I had to look through high school yearbooks to get the names of African-American students, then find out who their parents were, then look up those names in the directories. Sometimes those names were not in the directories. In the yearbooks, there were instances where a student would simply not be in the yearbook that particular year, but would show up again a couple years later. A possible explanation for this could be family financial situations that hindered the ability to pay for school, or a photo in the yearbook, but is hard to uncover the actual reasons.

It was also difficult to find birth records, as I experienced when profiling the Hurd family. I could not find any kind of birth record to William Hurd, Jr. even though his parents were in Junction City at the time, and his birth should have been reported in *The Junction City Union*. William, Jr. was not mentioned in the newspaper until his father died in 1942. I was able to find earlier recognition of his existence in Kansas State Census records. The article announcing William Hurd's death also shows that he was no longer married to Lorena (Jones) Hurd. However, I could not find whether it was a divorce or death. Considering the time I would assume death, but there is no death record to confirm this.

For these reasons, there are details that are either inferred or not included at all.