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Interview No. 1599

Dolores Atkins

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**Interviewee:**  
Dolores Atkins

**Intervener:**  
Julie Wise

**Project:**  
Bracero Oral History Project

**Location:**  
Parkin, Arkansas

**Date of Interview:**  
September 25, 2008

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**Transcript No.:**  
1599

**Transcriber / Summary:**  
Mayra L. Avila

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Dolores Atkins was born in Parkin, Arkansas in 1948; her family were sharecroppers that would only get a small percent of their work; she began picking cotton at the age of 3; she recalls that Parkin was a farm community and everyone worked in the fields; her parents encouraged her and her six siblings to get an education, but states that no one went to school during picking season; she explains that on Saturday families would take their children to pick cotton and would get to keep what they earned; she details the segregation in town, explaining how they ordered food from a service window marked blacks; she remembers that everyone stuck with their own race; consequently, Mexicans only came into town for liquor and food, then returned to their barracks; she remembers finding Spanish amusing to hear; she never worked alongside a Mexican worker because they kept them segregated.

**Length of interview**  
22 minutes

**Length of Transcript**  
n/a