"In terms of the Golden West, I think people have to understand it was the product of a very particular time and place in American racial history. The Golden West was essentially a byproduct of a segregated society. It could not have existed if it would not have been created in a fully integrated society."

Darrell Millner

"Union membership opened to Blacks only after a very hard fight...Every case required litigation."

"When we first formed our Union, we met secretly. On the car we never did recognize one another or speak to one...because had the company known about it, you would have been discharged...We were affiliated with the Cooks and Waiters and Barbers...Local 401, was all Black."

Otto Rutherford

"Down on Sixth street...Some of the places had instead of a sign...a great big ‘NO’, they had a dog...a Black guy looking like Little Black Sambo, and...an Indian, and they had that in the window. If you couldn’t read, you could see the picture. And that’s down in Skid Row!"

Otto Rutherford

Prior to 1900, according to interviews in the early 1930s with George Hardin and I. Fuller, “Negroes patronized white merchants instead of their own. They went to white theaters, restaurants, saloons, hotels, and lodging houses.” However, in 1906, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that businesses such as theatres could refuse to accommodate customers on the basis of race. Thereafter, Oregon became a segregated or Jim Crow state.